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Near East/South Asia Report

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NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

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REGIONAL AFFAIRS

GCC BUDGET DEFICITS DISCUSSED

Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 17 Aug 85 p 6

[Article: "Budgets of Gulf Cooperation Council States"]

[Text] New statistics about the economies of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council countries revealed that, in spite of the big decrease that has occurred in the revenues of the council states from 1981 to date, a decrease of 43 percent, these states were not altogether successful in controlling their expenditures. These statistics, which were issued in the United Gulf Bank publication, revealed that the revenues of the six council states in fiscal year 1981/82 were approximately \$93.8 billion, but that it decreased to \$83.6 billion in fiscal year 1984/85 and to \$78.4 billion in the 1985/86 fiscal year.

The expenditures, which were \$110.9 billion in the year 1981/82, decreased to \$101.7 billion in the year 1984/85, a decrease of 8.2 percent. However, a firm step was taken to reduce spending in the year 1985/86 when the expenditures will decrease to \$83.4 billion. In regard to deficit and surplus in the budgets of these states, the publication revealed that the financial surplus, which these six states enjoyed in the year 1981/82 and which amounted in the Saudi budget to \$24.4 billion, in Kuwait's to \$2.01 billion, in the Emirates' to \$697 million, in Qatar's to \$1.1 billion, in Oman's to \$396 million, and in Bahrain's to \$295 million, decreased the next year to \$716 million in Saudi Arabia and \$322 million in Kuwait while the Emirate's budget registered a deficit of \$873 million and the surplus in Qatar decreased to \$348 million, in Oman to \$341 million and in Bahrain to \$123 million.

The budgets of the six states, without exception, registered in 1983/84 a financial deficit that amounted in Saudi Arabia to \$10.01 billion rising to \$12.3 billion in 1984/85. In Kuwait, the deficit in the above-mentioned 2 years amounted to \$30.3 billion, while the Emirates' budget registered a deficit amounting to \$1.5 billion in 1983/84 which decreased to \$1.2 billion in 1984/85. The statistics added that in Qatar the deficit reached approximately \$1.5 billion, but it decreased in the following year to \$1.4 billion, while the deficit in Oman was \$599 million and \$591 million in the same 2 years successively. Meanwhile, Bahrain's budget registered a deficit amounting to \$18 million in 1983/84, but it disappeared in the following year.

The publication expected the deficit to disappear and Saudi Arabia's budget to be balanced in the year 1985/86. But Kuwait's budget should suffer a deficit amounting to \$2.1 billion, while the Emirates' deficit will decrease to \$500 million, and in Qatar the deficit will rise to \$2.04 billion with the Oman deficit registering \$590 million. Bahrain's budget, however, will be balanced. The statistics made clear that the Saudi budget revenue decreased during the years 1981 through 1986 from \$107.7 billion to \$71.7 billion, then to \$64.4 billion, \$60.2 billion and \$55.4 billion, while the expenditures also declined from \$83.3 billion to \$70.9, \$73.1 and \$55.4 billion, successively, during the above-mentioned 5 years.

The budget revenues in Kuwait during those 5 years were as follows, successively: \$15.4, \$11.07, \$10.4, \$10.6 and \$10.4 billion; whereas the expenditures registered an amount of \$13.5, \$10.7, \$12.7, \$13 and \$12.5 billion, successively, during that 5-year period.

The revenues of the budgets of the Emirates State declined from \$6.3 to \$4.4, \$3.5, \$3.5 and \$3.5 billion, successively, during those 5 years. The expenditures also declined from \$5.6 to \$5.2, \$5.01, \$4.7 and \$4 billion, successively. In Qatar, the budget revenues during the 5 year period were as follows, successively: \$5.2, \$4.5, \$2.4, \$3.3 and \$2.7 billion, while the expenditures were \$4.06, \$4.2, \$3.9, \$4.6 and \$4.7 billion.

13035
CSO: 4404/451

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

GCC PROTECTIONIST MEASURES PLANNED

Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 20 Aug 85 p 7

[Article: "Gulf Cooperation States Study Standardization of the Services' Prices and Imposition of Legislation for the Protection of Gulf Industries"]

[Text] Mr Rashid al-Mir, undersecretary of the Finance and National Economy Ministry and assistant for Bahraini Economic Affairs, announced that the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council states will soon implement a joint policy to protect their products from foreign product competition and to resist the policy of inundation which is pursued by some states exporting to the regions' markets.

The Bahraini official also mentioned that this policy will be implemented through the coming stage which is part of a series of stages in implementing the unified economic agreement between the council states. Moreover, the possibility of implementing the agreement and taking a collective stance through the upcoming meeting of finance and industry ministers of the council states to be held in the coming month will be discussed.

He further confirmed that the unified economic agreement will--by enforcing the article pertaining to coordinating monetary and finance policies--soon lay the groundwork and measures which will guarantee protection of national products in all the Cooperation Council states from foreign product competition.

He stated that there will be implementation of the bases pertaining to the founding of any industrial project. These bases concentrate upon the necessity of having local products yield a value that will be added to the national economy, whereby it will not be less than 40 percent of the value of the final product, and upon the necessity of having the citizens own 51 percent of the stocks of projects which are established in the Cooperation Council states. In addition, they would limit quantities of products made locally according to local market demands in each state and in markets of the council states, making certain that the goods produced locally are good compared to foreign counterparts which are heavily exported by foreign states to markets of the Cooperation Council states.

Mr Rashid al-Mir confirmed that the coming stage will witness removal of the obstacles which impede the movement of trade among the Cooperation

Council states. The possibility of ideal utilization of services provided by council states, which will bring about a yield that will be congruous with the national economies of all the region's countries, will be discussed.

The Bahraini official also said that the policies pertaining to standardization of the prices of services, water, electricity and communications, will be carried out gradually starting from the coming stage, which is part of a series of stages implementing the economic agreement, and according to the decisions made by the ministers concerned with this matter.

He added that there will be coordination of what pertains to the government aid policy which some of the states offer to some industries and services directly or indirectly and concentration on wide range implementation of the idea of converting state ownership in some projects to the private sector as was done to the Saudi Arabia Basic Industries Company ("SABIC"), elaborating that that will be applied soon to the Gulf Airline Company. In addition, there will be a discussion of the unification of support policies, providing that locally produced goods be as similarly competitive as possible.

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REGIONAL AFFAIRS

STUDY RELEASED ON ARAB FOREIGN DEBT

Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Jul 85 p 7

[Text] An economic study noted that the total Arab foreign debt had reached 100 billion by the end of 1983.

The study was published in the magazine AL-BURSAT AL-'ARABIYAH, which is put out by the Arab Union of Arab securities exchanges.

States often resort to taking out loans from abroad in order to cover the deficit in their balance of current accounts. All Arab states except the oil ones suffer from a constant deficit in the balance of current accounts, which consists essentially of a gap in revenues resulting from a deficit in the balance of trade. The gap of revenues in the balance of commodities is reduced through private and official remittances which constitute, along with the gap in revenues, the balance of current accounts. It is noted that in spite of the large volume of official and private remittances, they are not able to close the revenues gap in the states that have a deficit. In 1981, for example, official and private remittances covered more than 40 percent of the deficit in the balance of goods and services in Jordan and Tunisia, and about 25 percent in Syria; they exceeded the amount of the deficit in Lebanon, and covered 50 percent in Egypt, and about 75 percent with respect to Democratic Yemen.

Arab states that have deficits resort to taking out loans from abroad in order to cover the deficit in the balance of their current accounts and in their balance of payments, and to get extra revenues to cover development needs. Resorting to taking out loans from abroad for these two purposes is a matter that is linked to revenue from domestic economic performance. In one aspect domestic economic performance reflects on the net economic relationship to the outside world through foreign trade. The gap in revenues, which has increased in many Arab states and which foreign remittances have been unable to cover, has become very serious because of the entrenchment of consumeristic attitudes in Arab societies and an increase in the degree of luxury consumption and consumption for show that has led to an increase in imports.

Some studies indicate that the foreign indebtedness of Arab debtor nations had increased by about 20 times by the end of 1983 compared to 1970. The foreign indebtedness of Arab states is estimated to have reached \$100 billion by the

end of 1983, comprising 12.3 percent of the total Third World debt, which is about \$810 billion.

Regardless of the right or wrong of using foreign revenues, it has been noted that the foreign debt of Arab states has increased rapidly in an amazing fashion, along with all the disturbing indicators linked to the ratio of the national debt service to the gross national product and to exports.

What is truly disturbing is the observation that Arab foreign indebtedness grew during a period of increasing Arab oil revenues, especially during the second half of the seventies and the beginning of the eighties; that is, the period that saw an amazing rise in bank interest rates as well, and some Arab states resorted to taking out loans from private sources at high interest rates.

The total Arab foreign debt had reached \$77,405,200,000 by the end of 1982, of which about \$49 million was from official sources and \$28 million was from private sources [as published]. The service of the debt, amortization + interest, has grown from \$1,238,300,000 in 1973 to \$9,000,500,000 in 1982.

The total national foreign debt in 1982 was 32.5 percent of the gross domestic product in Algeria, in Jordan 3g.5 [as published] percent, in Tunisia 40 percent, Syria 15.1 percent, Oman 1.5 percent, Egypt 71.4 percent, Morocco 6:4 [as published] percent, the Sudan 71.4 percent, Somalia 78.4 percent, Mauritania 164.5 percent, the Yemen Arab Republic 36.1 percent, and Democratic Yemen 78.1 percent.

The ratio of national debt service to exports of goods and services in 1982 was as follows:

Jordan 9.3, Tunisia 17.4, the Sudan 8.6, Syria 14.6, Somalia 7.7, Oman 2.3, Eqypt .307 [as published], Morocco 47.3, Mauritania 11.9, the Yemen Arab (Republic) 16.2.

The rise in the exchange rate of the dollar with respect to all other currencies, which increases as interest rates begin to rise again in the United States, intensifies the problems and difficulties that result from the increase in foreign indebtedness and the rise in the service of the debt.

The possibility that workers' remittances may decrease constitutes further difficulties, in addition to the problems of borrowing from foreign sources, for Arab workers in the Arab oil states will suffer from trends towards austerity in spending by these states. Furthermore, workers in western Europe are being subjected to strong pressures to leave because of the economic situation and the state of unemployment. Thus the state of indebtedness in domestic economic performance, and the decrease in foreign revenues all constitute obstacles to development, if indeed they are not a threat to what has been accomplished so far.

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REGIONAL AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

KLIBI ASKS ARAB LEADERS TO URGENTLY HELP SUDAN--Well-informed Arab sources have said that Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi recently sent a detailed report to the Arab leaders explaining the problems and difficulties facing the Sudanese regime. This report comes following Klibi's visit to Khartoum and his meeting with Sudanese officials led by 'Abd-al-Rahman Siwar-al-Dhahab, chairman of the Transitional Military Council. In his report, Klibi said that Sudan requires Arab assistance to "face colossal problems and both internal and external threats," and in order to prevent this strategically important country from being transformed into an arena for international struggle. Klibi extensively discussed problems facing Sudan, laying special emphasis on the deteriorating economic situation due to the aggravating crisis of starvation and drought and Sudan's foreign debts that have exceeded \$10 billion. Klibi called for increasing Arab investment in Sudan and drawing up an Arab development program for this country. He demanded that \$250 million be "urgently" given to Sudan. He also proposed establishing an Arab rescue team, supported by a number of Arab transport planes, to send relief and supplies to the drought and starvation-stricken areas of Sudan. These Arab sources pointed out that King Fahd Ibn-Abd al-'Aziz was the first to respond to Klibi's report and to express Saudi readiness to assist Sudan. [Text] [Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 10 Aug 85 p 8 JN]

CSO: 4500/199

ALGERIA

FUTURE OF MAGHREB UNITY EXAMINED

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 4 Aug 85 p3

[Commentary "Subterfuge" by REVOLUTION AFRICAINE]

[Text] The weekly REVOLUTION AFRICAINE, in its most recent issue, published an article on the Greater Arab Maghreb under the title "Subterfuge."

Here is the full text of that article:

The building of the Greater Arab Maghreb is too serious an issue to be allowed to become distorted by confusion and invective. In the writings of Mr Ahmed Alaoui, however, such features have become the trademark of a style we all recognize. The editor of MATIN, let us be frank, is at his best in the media of coarseness and subterfuge.

The latest pretext for Mr Alaoui's now ritual attacks against Algeria was the invitation sent by the FLN [National Liberation Party] to attend the conference to be held in Algiers to commemorate the Conference of Tangier, where the Maghrebian parties met together in 1958.

This gave the editor of MATIN the opportunity to launch yet another hateful diatribe against Algeria, which he accuses of hypocrisy.

The objective, obviously, is to scuttle the meeting. But to do so by casting aspersions on the FLN's "purity of intention" is a most blatant subterfuge, and to accuse it of trying to get who knows what kind of endorsement of its ideas from its partners bespeaks the absence of any serious intellectual foundations.

Let us be clear on this: the meeting to be held in Algiers is intended to commemorate an important event in the history of the peoples of the Maghreb. It will bring together the parties that played a part in it, with the aim of reaffirming both their dedication to the goal of building a common destiny, as they acknowledged while the Algerian independence struggle was at its height, and their loyalty to the mutual commitments they made there together more than a quarter of a century ago.

But if one must talk about the situation that prevails in the region, the tensions we find there, the real and concrete problems our countries face, the obstacles that must be overcome in order to build the Maghreb and advance it,

then at the very least one should stick with the facts, put them in a correct historical perspective, discuss all the parties involved--for the Maghreb is not made up of just three countries, but of six peoples, united and molded by a common history, civilization, spiritual values, sufferings and aspirations.

All this means that the participation of the authentic representatives of these six countries--Mauritania, Western Sahara, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya--will provide a unique forum for reviewing all the issues. Together they can conscientiously and amicably consider the problems to be overcome, try to discern the broad lines of their common destiny, work to make a reality of that monumental task of creating Maghreb unity, which is and remains one of the deepest aspirations that nourish the revolutionary spirit of our peoples.

We will not ask anyone to betray their beliefs. Similarly, it would be puerile to entertain the hope that the FLN might be diverted from the path it has taken, betray its ideals and the commitments it has made to the Algerian people and the national liberation movement.

The FLN Party has never looked on this upcoming meeting as a chance to "vindicate itself." If Algeria is "guilty" of having adopted, as a cardinal principle of its external policy, aid and support to national liberation movements of oppressed peoples of the Third World, then it willingly and enthusiastically assumes the burden of such "guilt." All the same, this decision was not one casually made. It derives directly from our people's experience in combat, which has left us the sad memories of many, many martyrs. The Algerian people will never agree to build the Maghreb on the basis of the spoliation of one of its constituent peoples. That would be a bizarre way to respond to the deep aspirations and continuing needs of the peoples of the Maghreb as a whole.

This great mission--we keep reminding people--can only be accomplished by taking into account the objective facts and the realities which force themselves upon us.

The people of the Western Sahara are one of those realities. We cannot hide from this, on pain of betraying an ideal which has stirred the conscience of several generations of our people. The Western Sahara question is certainly a problem, but we cannot permit ourselves to run away from it or obfuscate it without compromising a work which is fundamentally aimed at consolidating the political, economic and cultural independence of our peoples, the establishment of stability in an atmosphere of security, peace and regional prosperity. Instead, we must confront it lucidly, looking at the problem in its own terms: those of a process of obstructed decolonization, those of the unabridgeable right of peoples to self-determination and independence, those of the sanctity of the borders inherited at independence.

Algeria, for its part, has said it would be prepared at any time to use its good offices to help resolve the problem, by bringing the contending parties together. Its position is precisely in line with the resolutions passed by the African community, the Nonalignment Movement, and the United Nations.

The elimination of the causes of this fratricidal conflict and the tension which it engenders in the region is of critical importance in the historic task of creating a united Greater Arab Maghreb. The resolution of this problem is an integral part of that task, and is a responsibility for all men of goodwill, in

Africa especially, where freedom is a categorical imperative, not a negotiable demand.

The Organization of African Unity [OAU], which has created a solid consensus on this question, provides the natural framework for its resolution; the construction of the Maghreb provides the context that could, while preserving everyone's dignity, hasten the reconciliation between the fraternal peoples of Morocco and the Western Sahara.

The Maghrebist ideals of the FLN Party, it must be recalled, are not of recent coinage. They are an inherent part of its character. Can one forget that they are inscribed in the very act of its creation, the Appeal of 1 November 1954? In the opening sentence of that appeal, one finds that confession of faith in the creation of the Maghreb stated unequivocally.

One could go even further back in the history of the Algerian National Movement. One finds that this demand has been, since the very beginning, an element that has structured and nourished the entire process of the liberation and emancipation of the Algerian people right up to our own day.

It is a constant that stands out conspicuously in all the fundamental documents of the party, the statements made by party leaders, and in daily actions.

This being the case, the FLN Party is not trying to teach anyone what to think, and does not intend to take lessons from anyone else, either. The FLN Party, as the vanguard party of the Algerian people since 1 November 1954, intends to assume full responsibility for all of the consequences of its actions, both positive and negative. It will do so before the people, before the world, before history.

This is why it has no need to seek anyone's endorsement except the people whom it represents.

The path it has chosen for the construction of the Maghreb is certainly not an easy one. It is convinced that it is the only path worthy of the aspirations of the peoples of our region, the only path that respects their rights, and it rejects demagogery, sordid maneuvering, subterfuge, cowardice, and the politics of expedience.

Such a path rewards discipline and hard work. It translates the perseverance and loyalty of the Algerian revolution into its ideals, its principles, into its firm resolve to promote the creation of a powerful battlement to protect the independence of our countries, guarantee them the chance to mobilize all their creative energies and all their potentialities of development. But also it broadens the anti-imperialist front, where aid and active support to liberation movements is more indispensable than ever.

Such is our path. Such it will continue to be. It is both a source of inspiration and the foundation of our ideology, our orientation, and our action.

Nothing could make Algeria deviate from this path.

9516
CSO : 4519/174

ALGERIA

SENIOR ARMY OFFICERS PROMOTED

Algiers ALGERIE ACTUALITE in French 18-24 Jul 85 p 10

[Text] A promotion ceremony for senior officers of the ANP [People's National Army] was held Sunday afternoon at the office of the president. The ceremony was chaired by President Chadli Bendjedid, secretary general of the FLN [National Liberation Front Party], supreme commander of the armed forces.

During the ceremony, the senior ANP officers promoted to general and colonel were presented with the insignia of their new rank.

Colonels promoted to general were:

- El Hachemi Hadjeres
- Abdelkader Abdellioui
- Ben Abbes Gheziel
- Larbi Belkheir
- Medjidouh Lakhal Ayat
- Mostefa Chelloufi.

Also, the following lieutenant colonels were promoted to the rank of colonel:

- Mekhlouf Dib
- Yahia Souaidia
- Ali Azzi
- Ahmed Djenouhat
- Abdelmadjid Cherif
- Nourredine Ben Khoucha
- Yahia Rahal.

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CSO : 4519/174

ALGERIA

CHANGES IN NATIONAL CHARTER, ARMY DISCUSSED

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 2 Aug 85 p 31

[Article by George al-Rasi: Two Political Achievements for Algeria Before the End of the Year: Enriching the National Charter and Developing the Army"]

[Text] The campaign to "enrich the National Charter" that President Chedli Bendjedid launched last 14 July will be the focus of attention for the Algerian media and public opinion at least until the end of this year. The goal of this campaign is to introduce amendments into the National Charter, which was established in 1976 during the era of the late President Houari Boumedienne, in his capacity as an ideological guide for political action and social change. Just as happened in 1976, the "enrichment" campaign will be accompanied by wide-ranging discussions in which all the popular organizations in the country will participate. It will allow all citizens to express their views and concerns with complete freedom. The fruit of those discussions is what will be considered by the committee entrusted with the review process and headed by Mohamed a-Cherif Messaadia, secretary general of the National Liberation Front.

It is anticipated that the door will be opened to discussion on the mass level the middle of this August. The national reviewing committee, which held its first meeting on 9 July, in addition to party officials, representatives from the National Assembly (parliament), the Army, and the popular organizations--workers, peasants, students, women, and other activists [will participate].

It is difficult for us to define at this point precisely what final result will be produced by the review process, which will in all probability be followed by a general referendum on its reinstatement, perhaps instead we can define the basic considerations around which discussion will revolve.

The first consideration has a demographic character. That is, that around 70 percent of Algeria's residents, comprising 22 million people, are under the age of 30. That means they were born after the revolution and after independence. Their concerns differ fundamentally from the generation that preceded them and that bore the burden of liberating the country. They share the concerns and problems of all the world's youth: study, work, marriage,

housing, and other such everyday concerns. These words have specific meanings in a country like Algeria. For study is not just obtaining a degree, but rather reclaiming the national language--Arabic. Work, marriage, and housing are not platitudes in a developing country trying to give every individual his place under the sun.

Another consideration is economic. This country's basic resources are concentrated in oil and gas and these resources are not infinite. In Algeria, to be sure, petroleum wealth will not last through the end of this century. Gas reserves, to which the country has pinned its greatest hopes with respect to future development, are encountering serious difficulties in marketing and maintaining prices. This is because of the decline in oil prices, to which they are linked, on the one hand, and because of the fierce competition from international producers, led by the Soviet Union, on the other. Therefore, it was necessary to open up new domains for production. It was natural to turn attention toward the agricultural sector and water resources, on which the current 5-year development plan has concentrated heavily. In fact, there has begun a transfer of land ownership to farmers in some areas, and the competition has reached such an extent that it has led to clashes in some cases, as occurred recently in the town of Ghardaia.

There remains a third basic, fundamental consideration for the upcoming review process, as it touches the concept of Algerian socialism and the limits it sets for the private sector to operate within its framework, in order to participate in the country's social and economic development. Although the structure of the public sector as the overseer of the economy and the backbone of development leadership is certain to be preserved, many other domains could be opened up to private initiatives, such as in the areas of services, agriculture, and light industry.

Amidst the crush of all these expectations came the resolution issued by President Chedli last 14 July related to the naming of 13 senior officers in the Algerian army carrying the rank of either general or colonel. This was the second round of promotions in 9 months. A similar action took place on the occasion of the celebrations of the 30th anniversary of the 1 November 1954 revolution. The clear goal of these promotions was to transform the Army from a liberation army to the army of a modern state. The most prominent of those promoted to the rank of colonel were a military security official, Medjdoub Lakhal Ayat; a national police official, Mostefa Chelloufi; Army Staff officer Abdelkader al-Qadir Abdellioui; and the president of the military academy at Chernchell and an old colleague of the late President Boumedienne, el Hachemi Hadjeres. In addition were leaders of the Navy, Air Defense, and the National Guard.

The biggest surprise of the promotions to general, it being a rank introduced in the Algerian army in October 1984, was naming Col Larbi Belkheir, secretary general of the presidency of the republic, to this rank. This was in addition to Ben Abbes Gheziel, a member of the permanent committee of the National Security Council.

Enriching the National Charter and staffing the Army will be the headings for internal developments that Algeria will be witnessing through the end of this year.

9614

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ALGERIA

PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER ON ROAD NETWORK PROJECTS

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 30 Jul 85 p 14

[Interview of Minister of Public Works Ahmed Benfreha by Omar Berbiche; date, place not specified]

[Text] EL MOUDJAHID: Today, Algiers is taking on a new image. Highways, structures, and interchanges, and the traffic in the surroundings of Algiers, previously fraught with problems, has today been greatly eased. First of all, why this development plan for the Algiers built-up area, and second, what will be its consequences for Algiers first of all and by extension for the rest of the country?

Benfreha: It should be remembered that the infrastructure development plan was produced in the context of implementation of the government decisions relating to general organization of the capital and its built-up area.

In this context, the minister of public works, in coordination with the other sectors, was to draw up a plan for road infrastructure, using the available development data.

In my view, the plan responds to the following main concerns:

--To solve traffic congestion on the main existing thoroughfares.

--To facilitate road transport of freight, particularly that relating to the Algiers port activity.

--To assure service to the major residential areas.

--To tackle the needs created by future urbanization.

--To undertake development of trunk roads as part of the medium- and long-term planned national road system.

The results of this plan for the capital and the rest of the country will be:

--Marked improvement in conditions of access to and exit from the capital.

--Better distribution of traffic over the whole network, taking into account potential opportunities for use.

--Improvement of safety conditions.

--Finally, a beneficial effect on the country's economy through significant savings in time and transport cost.

What has been accomplished in Algiers is part of the program established for the capital and its region, which as you know has been experiencing a particularly difficult traffic situation.

The program involves establishing a network of exit routes and urban bypasses, as well as modernization of the existing main highways such as RN No 5 between Boudouaou and Lakharia, and RN No 4 between Birkhadem and Oued-Kerma.

In this context, it is planned to construct 110 km of highway and 29 structures for an outer beltway consisting of the southern bypass road from Zeralda to Dar-El-Beida, through Ban-Aknoun and Bir-Mouraid-Rais (47 km), and the eastern highway from Fusilles bridge along the sea to connect with the southern bypass opposite Dar-El-Beida (15 km).

These two axes will be linked by radials: the Anassers suburb to downtown highway between the Fusilles bridge interchange and the Garidi interchange, the radial of Oued Ouchaih between the Caroubier interchange and Oued Kerma (10 km), the extension of the Oued Koriche radial to join the eastern highway through Bab-El-Oued and the southern bypass beginning at Chevalley.

A considerable portion of this program has been completed; some projects are under construction, others are about to get underway.

The various construction phases are aimed not only at meeting medium- and long-term traffic needs, but at facilitating the management of urban build-up and the links with the rest of the country.

It should be added that the suburban road development for Algiers is intended to ultimately become part of the national development plan in connection with the east-west Annaba-Tlemcen highway.

Also, I should point out that similar but less important developments are in progress or under study for other urban areas in the country, for example, Annaba, Constantine and Oran.

E. M.: Now that the capital has the highway infrastructure necessary for its development, can one say that the traffic problems, at least in the suburbs, have been solved, for a number of years anyway?

Benfreha: Indeed, the eastern highway, the southern bypass, the Anassers suburb to downtown highway, and the future Oued-Ouchaih radial have solved or will solve to a large extent the traffic problems in the outskirts of Algiers.

Obviously, the full completion of all the projects planned under the Second Plan will have an undoubtedly favorable effect on traffic over the short and medium term.

The studies made enable us to affirm that this plan, as a whole, takes into account the present and future needs in respect to traffic requirements.

The projects completed or underway are designed to handle the traffic for the year 2005 time-frame, with a good level of service, as part of an urban development plan, travel needs, and use of both public transport and private vehicles transport.

However, it should be pointed out that this network is not frozen in design. It will be called on to undergo the necessary adaptation to the rate of urban development and traffic changes. It was designed to be able to adapt.

E. M.: While the construction of a highway beltway in the Algiers suburbs has resulted in better distribution and flow of traffic within that beltway, the interdistrict or interurban traffic, on the other hand, has remained unchanged. Has the modification of road traffic on certain key thoroughfares, such as Fusilles bridge becoming one-way, shown that by working with the existing network solutions to some bottlenecks can be easily found? Of the highway and the interdistrict organization plan, which is based on the other?

Benfreha: The two actions are completely complementary and closely linked. Putting a highway of significant capacity into operation requires revision of the existing traffic pattern.

The example you mention is significant. The opening to traffic of a highway such as the Fusilles bridge to Dar El-Baida segment required total revision of the area's traffic pattern, with immediate effects on traffic flow. An overall review is underway to produce a coordinated traffic plan to solve the traffic problems of a major urban area.

The actions carried out thus far are aimed at establishing a road and highway infrastructure that will be the basic framework of the network for Algiers and its urban area, and this main network must be the base for the links with the secondary and tertiary networks. These links can only be decided on in relation to the decisions taken on development of the urban fabric.

The programs for restructuring existing districts must take into account concerns relating to organization of the networks as a whole. The interdistrict links will be established in relation to the secondary and tertiary networks, which must be integrated and connected to the main network through interchanges, whose function, as already demonstrated, is essential to the organization and flow of traffic. Moreover, the role of development of radials, such as the Oued Ouchaiach, and suburb to downtown highways, such as the Annassers, is to further facilitate interdistrict travel.

The putting into operation of an entire mesh, road and highway, will enable handling the bulk of interdistrict traffic and relieve the downtown area of part of the traffic heading for the exits from the capital.

Of course, it is understood that certain developments in the urban zone, with well-located parking, and measures to reorganize traffic flow, as well as better discipline on the part of road users (pedestrians and drivers) can also contribute to significant improvements in overall traffic flow.

E. M.: Certain projects in Algiers wilaya have been completed in record time. Were these exceptional construction outfits, or are the reasons to be sought elsewhere?

Benfreha: In a general way, completion deadlines depend mainly on the organization of the construction companies and best use of resources, both human and equipment. The role of our national companies in these work projects has shown particularly that it is possible to have good performance while meeting quality requirements.

The secret, if there is a secret, in all that has been carried out, or is being carried out, is in the serious approach by all the companies assigned to these projects and the worthy efforts of all the workers.

The fact that the projects have been completed within the set deadlines is due to better supervision and rational organization of the worksites, to day and night supervision of the operation, and to the motivation of the Algerian workers and foremen, who must be praised for the competence, serious attitude, and selflessness that they have demonstrated in order to meet the commitment. The experience has shown that it is possible to do great things as long as the will exists.

E. M.: Changes that were not planned in the initial studies are sometimes made in projects, resulting in delays and cost reestimates. How do you think you can remedy this situation in the future?

Benfreha: This situation results from the fact that any road infrastructure study, and specifically in the urban area, requires adaptation. Thus, it is understood that regardless of the quality of the study, some unpredictables can always appear. Also, changes result from updating of data sometimes not available at the time of the study. Any study, even though well carried out, can be further perfected during construction.

It should be remembered that studies are developed on the basis of available data and information, particularly in regard to urban development. It should be kept in mind that the changes sometimes introduced are in the direction of improvement, and do not result only in delays or investment over-costs, but also in economies in investment and funds, in time, and particularly in future economies in vehicle operation costs.

E. M.: The highway segments and structures are constructed by national companies, however, some projects, such as stress bridges, require advanced technology that is not within the national capability and requires regular resort to foreign assistance. Is technology transfer being planned, and how?

Benfreha: This question relates to an important problem and a current one. The national companies have constructed Algiers highway projects (about 60 percent). However, it is obvious that the construction of certain projects, for various reasons, requires the appropriate technology that our own enterprises have not yet completely mastered. The example you cited is a significant demonstration of this situation. Nevertheless, measures are being taken to strengthen the construction capabilities of the national companies to enable them to undertake most of the infrastructure programs. Measures are being taken so that in the near future our national companies will master the techniques to carry out these specific projects.

The technique of "stress bridges" was used in consideration of the building site (crossing Avenue de l'ALN, the railway line over Rue de Tripoli, and the proximity of important installations) and also the necessity to carry out the construction amid traffic while causing the least disruption.

I am pleased to note that our construction companies have already gained considerable experience in constructing major road projects and structures. It is by blacksmithing that one becomes a blacksmith.

However, it must be explained that in the projects as a whole preference has been given to the national companies, to the extent that their level of capability qualifies them to participate. For example, SONATRO constructed a significant portion of the road projects (the segment of the southern bypass Ben-Aknoun-Birmandreis-Kouba, the Birkhadem-Quatre-Chemins bypass of Kouba, and the eastern highway).

Under the program, priority is always given in building of structures to the national companies, such as SAPTA, ENGOA and SEROA. However, when these companies' capabilities do not enable them to undertake a project, it is necessary to solicit outside help through consultation. This was the case with the eastern highway and the projects on the southern bypass between Kouba and Dar-El-Beida.

In some cases, it is more economical to call on foreign companies in connection with a project requiring heavy investment and special construction equipment, imported equipment, which can only be amortized to a small degree on the planned project and is without foreseeable subsequent use. This was the case with the companies involved in the Algiers projects.

It is sometimes necessary at "peak stages" of programs, either in respect to volume or complexity, to call on foreign companies. For the future, consideration is being given to other forms of involvement by foreign companies in constructing projects in order to assure transfer of technology.

E. M.: Some foreign companies are involved in various projects that were started to profit the wilaya of Algiers. What are your conclusions on this?

Benfreha: The involvement of foreign construction resources became necessary in order to implement the projects as a whole, taking into account all the considerations I have already mentioned.

Nevertheless, I must draw attention to the fact that this participation only involves 26 percent of all the projects carried out across the country during the past 5-year period. This support is temporary. I should not fail to point out that the involvement of foreign companies is one suitable means for transfer of technology at working level.

E. M.: Mr Minister, please review the major projects currently underway and under study across the country.

Benfreha: The first 5-year plan, aside from security measures, undertook modernization of the network and opening up of the isolated areas in the north and south of the country, and getting rid of a number of "padlocks" requiring major investment. These were the padlocks around the major urban areas (Algiers, Annaba, Oran) and padlocks constituted by the basic north-south roads, in order to improve the land and develop the country.

In regard to aviation infrastructure, a series of projects is currently underway involving development of airports in the various wilayas (Algiers, Annaba, El Golea, Illizi). Construction of other infrastructure in the other wilayas is being studied.

In the field of road infrastructure, many projects are under construction or study, in addition to those turned over in the past few months. It would be tedious to list all these projects here, since there are so many. However, what I can emphasize is that these projects are not limited to certain regions, but are part of the general development plan for the country's road infrastructure. The objective is to promote modernization activity and particularly expansion of local roads and opening up of the south of the country, as well as the rural and mountain areas, in the context of the communal development plans, in order to provide a more balanced development of the country.

The maritime infrastructure also has its share in this action program. The activities undertaken to benefit this sector include development and expansion of certain ports (Annaba, Bejaia and Mostaganem), construction of new ports, as well as expansion and equipping of 17 fishing ports.

E. M.: The enterprises under the administration of the Ministry of Public Works, as well as those in other sectors of activity, have been restructured. Would you give us an initial evaluation of this important operation, which is of a strategic nature for the sector.

Benfreha: In order to implement the objectives assigned to it, the sector had to provide itself with the study and work structures to undertake projects and assume the largest possible role in carrying them out, while minimizing as far as possible the foreign involvement in this field.

The task was to establish a homogeneous production and study structure with adequate resources, that would be reliable and effective, and organized in specialized subsectors, taking into the account the specific nature of the projects to be carried out.

However, efforts must still be made to strengthen in particular our capabilities for study and control of projects, in which under the current state of resources, particularly personnel, we are not even able to fully cover the sector's needs.

The sector's study and implementation structure has developed as follows:

--In 1981, 20 enterprises.

--In 1982, 25 enterprises.

--In 1983, 33 enterprises.

The 33 enterprises break down as follows:

--Road and airfield projects: 14 enterprises.

--Maritime projects: three enterprises.

--Studies and road structure construction: six enterprises

--Studies and inspection laboratories: 10 enterprises.

The objectives of the organic restructuring are as follows:

--Redimensioning of the major enterprises in the sector.

--Strengthening of geographic decentralization.

--Specialization of enterprises by nature of activity.

The objective in establishing these structures was to improve productivity and increase production, and to achieve a balance between the means for implementation and the constantly growing volume of projects to be carried out.

The restructuring was undertaken in order to limit and define precisely the responsibilities and missions of the enterprises, on the one hand, and to bring the decision-making centers close to their field of action, on the other.

It can be said that the restructuring of the enterprises under the Ministry of Public Works has had very positive effects for the sector, and has made it possible to achieve very encouraging results.

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ALGERIA

INCREASED GRAIN PRODUCTION REPORTED

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 7 Aug 85 p 12

[Article: "How the Challenge Was Met"]

[Text] In a preceding article, we sketched the broad outlines of the grain production development program and its preliminary results.

The record harvest brought in during the current harvesting and threshing season is first of all an illustration of the rich potential of our agriculture, and also of the effort made by producers in all sectors to increase the yield. The increase in production meant a particular effort in organizing the stockpiling and marketing of the harvest.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries took a series of measures to ensure the stockpiling and marketing of this harvest under the most favorable conditions. In particular, these measures dealt with the organization of the harvesting and threshing and taking delivery of the grain.

At the same time, the decision was made to raise the price of grain paid to producers as well as to pay growers for the costs of transportation so as to bring about the greatest possible flow of grain to storage organizations.

Definite Potential

In the light of the initial experiences and the spread of information provided for in the program undertaken during this agricultural year, the prospects for the 1985/1986 agricultural season make it possible to envisage greater normalization of the situation through more sustained development, taking into account the strategic importance of this production.

In the months to come, the goal is to apply a development program which should lead to more qualitative and quantitative results. It is estimated today that the crop-growing improvement operations were very effective only over an approximately 850,000 hectare area, about one third of grain producing land.

In 1985/1986, it was decided to deal with the crop-growing sector as a whole and to make sure that it was promoted by all production factors.

Concomitantly, and still within the context of the development of the system of production, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries will undertake a program with the goal of progressively reducing the amount of fallow land which at the moment totals 2 million hectares.

The task of making this fallow land productive will be achieved by developing and diversifying fodder crops together with the application of farming techniques which are more suitable to the development and conservation of the land.

During the 1985/1986 season, a vast program will be undertaken for the development of dry vegetable production, a food product which plays an important role in meeting the need for national consumption. In this area, national production must be increased by improving the yield.

Initially, the objective of the program is to develop the production of three crops currently in short supply when compared with national need: these are lentils, beans, and chick-peas.

Similarly, steps will be taken to develop the production of fodder which has to do with the task of increasing animal production. In this area, efforts will be made particularly towards:

--Improving crop yield.

--Increasing fodder acreage by reducing the amount of fallow land.

--Diversification of fodder crops, restricted at present to a few types of hay, by the introduction of other crops that are richer and provide better cattle feed such as: fodder peas, field beans, clover, fodder grasses, and other perennial and semiperennial crops such as the honey-locust, carob tree, and arborescent lucern.

Generally speaking, considering the 1984-1985 agricultural season, which for the first time since the independence of our country has witnessed the application of a recovery and development policy for agricultural production, it may be affirmed that this sector does not lack the potential which would permit the spectacular recovery of our agriculture.

It has just been proven that the efforts made on a national scale following the instructions of the country's political leadership to promote awareness among the farmers and technicians concerned has met with favorable response on all levels. The results recorded in promoting the growing of grain and potatoes, and egg laying chicken farming are there to prove it.

Moreover, the assistance provided for farmers in equipment, farm loans, and the raising of prices paid to producers, is a factor which has stimulated renewed interest in agricultural activities.

If the first year of the present 5-year development plan which gives top priority to agriculture has made it possible to achieve satisfying results in grain production in particular, one can therefore be assured that the next growing season will see further efforts towards recovery and development following a planned program of action which takes into account the priority agricultural sectors requiring the development of rapid production by means of the establishment and application of modern methods of operation, as well as the more effective participation of farm workers.

The impression one gets from this first season in the development of agricultural production is that all parties concerned throughout the country have joined forces to meet the challenge, even in the most remote wilayas where farming seemed most embryonic. The future now appears to be extremely promising, and the momentum must be maintained.

Oat Harvest Estimates

Wilaya	Production (cwt)	Wilaya	Production (cwt)
Setif	118,061	Oran	16,711
Sidi Bel Abbes	116,872	Skikda	15,600
Tiaret	111,850	Tissemsilt	14,800
Mascara	67,150	Souk-Ahras	13,160
Bouira	65,404	Boumerdes	12,740
Ain Temouchent	64,108	Batna	12,218
Tlemcen	60,218	Chlef	10,541
Oum El-Bouaghi	52,200	Tipaza	8,795
Medea	49,449	Khenchela	5,000
Saida	44,300	Tizi-Ouzou	2,473
Ain Defla	36,640	Bejaia	2,396
B. B. Arreridj	32,083	Algiers	1,373
Mostaganem	27,871	Tebessa	812
Constantine	26,790	Jijel	420
Guelma	25,693	Blida	350
Relizane	18,430	Annaba	190

Production of Southern Wilayas (All Cereals)

Wilaya	Area (hectares)	Production (cwt)	Yield (cwt/hectare)
El-Bayadh	1,645	5,945	3.75
Bechar	1,617	31,198	19.29
Biskra	8,132	57,704	7.09
Adrar	675	27,000	4.00
Ghardaia	1,400	8,400	6.00
Laghouat	3,000	12,000	4.00
Tamanrasset	--	1,575	--
South Total	16,469	143,822	8.73

**Harvest Estimates by Species
1984-1985 Season (Unit: Hundredweight)**

Region	Hard Wheat	Soft Wheat	Barley	Oats	Total
East	5,893,163	1,865,141	7,268,522	333,304	15,360,130
Central	2,224,327	688,774	1,518,555	190,161	4,621,817
West	2,531,441	3,181,662	4,097,460	542,310	10,352,873
South	68,947	3,820	69,795	1,260	143,822
Total	10,717,878	5,739,397	12,954,332	1,067,035	30,478,642

Barley Harvest Estimates

Wilaya	Production (cwt)	Wilaya	Production (cwt)
Khenchela	1,284,361	Souk-Ahras	240,600
Batna	1,281,500	Mostaganem	220,704
Tebessa	1,146,048	Tissmesilt	204,391
Oum El-Bouaghi	1,102,730	Chlef	181,988
Sidi Bel-Abbes	886,647	Constantine	177,750
Setif	664,080	Oran	126,149
Tiaret	644,534	Guelma	120,595
Ain-Temouchent	627,638	Skikda	112,977
Mascara	551,530	Bejaia	74,745
Medea	545,479	Djelfa	40,000
M'Sila	448,700	Boumerdes	27,222
Bordj Bou-Arreridj	392,517	Tizi-Ouzou	19,722
Tlemcen	329,097	El-Tarf	19,650
Bouira	311,024	Tipaza	17,255
Ain Defla	284,000	Blida	16,000
Mila	257,774	Annaba	15,400
Saida	255,900	Jijel	3,840
Relizane	250,810	Algiers	1,120

Production Rate for All Cereals Combined

Wilaya	Production (cwt/hectare)	Wilaya	Production (cwt/hectare)
Khenchela	15.03	Mascara	10.82
Blida	14.41	Bejaia	10.74
Bouira	13.42	Souk-Ahras	10.65
Ain Temouchent	13.16	Oran	10.00
Tizi-Ouzou	13.05	Tipaza	10.00
Medea	12.98	Chlef	9.95
Skikda	12.76	Sidi Bel-Abbes	9.78
Boumerdes	12.71	Tebessa	9.30
Constantine	12.52	El-Tarf	9.29
Guelma	12.30	Batna	9.05
Jijel	12.29	Tissmesilt	9.05
Ain-Defla	12.18	Relizane	8.61
Oum El-Bouaghi	11.84	Tiaret	8.02
Setif	11.78	Tlemcen	7.70
Algiers	11.37	M'Sila	7.01
Mila	11.32	Annaba	6.91
B. B. Arreridj	11.07	Saida	5.84
Mostaganem	10.85	Djelfa	4.00

Hard Wheat Harvest Estimates

Wilaya	Production (cwt)	Wilaya	Production (cwt)
Souk-Ahras	918,422	Relizane	216,984
Setif	834,664	Mascara	204,560
Medea	790,116	Ain Temouchent	204,154
Tiaret	767,981	Sidi Bel-Abbes	154,897
Oum El Bouaghi	630,400	Saida	151,360
Mila	529,991	Oran	113,020
B. B. Arreridj	501,647	Blida	78,000
Guelma	489,379	Boumerdes	74,399
Batna	443,500	El-Tarf	69,390
Khenchela	421,290	Mostaganem	54,911
Tissemsilt	421,159	Tipaza	53,478
Bouira	414,726	Tizi-Ouzou	49,060
Constantine	379,841	Bejaia	43,060
Ain Defla	357,738	M'Sila	32,550
Chlef	354,651	Annaba	20,600
Skikda	341,338	Algiers	9,099
Tebessa	273,901	Jijel	6,250
Tlemcen	242,415		

Soft Wheat Harvest Estimates

Wilaya	Production (cwt)	Wilaya	Production (cwt)
Tiaret	1,098,954	Oran	107,330
Sidi Bel-Abbes	579,011	Batna	103,300
Mascara	342,360	Tissemsilt	101,279
Saida	339,484	Mostaganem	79,193
Oum El-Bouaghi	322,900	Relizane	64,120
Guelma	292,665	Khenchela	35,000
Setif	291,036	Skikda	27,660
Ain Temouchent	248,432	Blida	24,000
Mila	241,514	Boumerdes	20,938
Tlemcen	229,499	Annaba	18,160
Ain Defla	206,354	El Tarf	12,900
Chlef	180,854	Tizi-Ouzou	9,462
Constantine	180,810	Tipaza	8,993
Souk-Ahras	167,868	M'Sila	7,840
B. B. Arreridj	163,488	Algiers	2,407
Medea	122,092	Bejaia	570
Bouira	113,104		

Production of Southern Wilayas (by Species)

Wilaya	Hard Wheat	Soft Wheat	Barley	Oats	Total
El Bayadh	1,505	1,680	2,700	60	5,945
Biskra	25,215	650	31,843	--	57,704
Bechar	12,827	--	18,371	--	31,193
Adrar	27,000	--	--	--	27,000
Ghardaia	2,400	--	4,800	1,200	8,400
Laghouat	--	--	12,000	--	12,000
Tamanrasse	--	1,500	75	--	1,575
South Total	68,547	3,320	69,795	1,260	143,822

Comparison of National Quantities Received by the OAIC
[Interoccupational Algerian Grains Office]
(All Cereals Combined as of July 31, 1985)

Source	1983-1984	1984-1985
Public sector	3,438,347	6,510,049
Private sector	382,237	2,208,960
Total	3,820,942	8,719,009

9824
CSO: 4519/192

EGYPT

PARLIAMENTARY IMMUNITY DISCUSSED

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 4 Aug 85 p 7

/Commentary by Salah Muntasir: "Parliamentary Immunity" /

/Text/ It is not a joke, it happened...

A member of the People's Assembly received the papers for his daughter's entry into one of the private language schools. This school requires that it meet with the parents, become acquainted with them and ask them some questions.

The father, the member of the People's Assembly, went to the school. The director told him that the mother must come also so that she could speak with both of them. This also is a requirement. Immediately, the father said, "You can not ask me anything ... I am a member of the People's Assembly and I can not be questioned unless immunity is lifted from me."

As I said, this is not a joke, it happened. Perhaps it is a result of the many stories, which have increased in recent days, about lifting parliamentary immunity from some members of the People's Assembly and the attacks and accusations that have surrounded some cases.

The big mistake is that we have come to picture this immunity as if it is a tank that a member of the People's Assembly moves about in, and that if immunity is lifted from him he will come down from this tank and stand among the people without a weapon to defend himself. This is not correct.

Parliamentary immunity is only lifted from a member of the assembly to question him about a specific situation. Other than that, he enjoys immunity, so if it is necessary to question him about another situation, immunity must be lifted from him a second time to question him about the new situation. It might happen that he needs to be questioned about a third situation, so immunity is lifted from him a third time ...and a fourth time ...and so on.

In each case, the relevant office of the People's Assembly studies the circumstances, evidence and reasons that surround the case before deciding to lift immunity to keep from exposing a member of the People's Assembly to questioning by accusations or in deceptive situations.

A member of the People's Assembly is still, like any citizen, before the rule and authority of the law, or this is how it should be!

12780

CSO: 4504/466

EGYPT

INFLUENCE OF OPEN DOOR POLICY ON ARABIC LANGUAGE DECRIED

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 7 Aug 85 p 20

/Commentary by Ahmad Baha'-al-Din: "Diary"/

/Text/ It is the Bank of Egypt, not the Bank of the Pacific or the Bank of Nova Scotia or another of the banks of the open door policy. It is the Tal'at Harb Bank or the Egyptian National Bank of Economics. A few days ago an advertisement for a Bank of Egypt "guichet" in the headquarters of the social insurance corporation was published on the first page of AL-AHRAM.

"Bank of Egypt Guichet" written in big letters in the center of the advertisement. For those servants of God who are not familiar with the banks of the European capitals, the word "guichet" is a French word meaning "bank window." But "guichet" is used only in France and French-speaking countries.

We have noticed, with great sorrow, the harsh and wretched things that have accompanied the open door policy, including the use of Western names in the Arabic language. "Burj" has come to be called "tower," and "commercial center" has come to be written, in Arabic, as "shopping center complex." Tourist trips have come to be called "tours," not to speak of the word "boutique" or "supermarket" used for all shops.

We used to think that this wave of Westernization and this mental attitude that tries to make people feel that everything good must have a foreign name had just reached the level of the ignorant wealthy and the newly rich, those who make their interests in Egypt but whose hearts beat in Europe or America.

More to the point is the split personality that we find in large places, such as "Al-Salam Shopping Center for Islamic Apparel."

Even the Bank of Egypt does this. It was set up to prove precisely the opposite, that the bank, at a time when all of the banks were foreign, could become Egyptian. Our ears have become accustomed to the conjunction of the word "bank" with the word "Egypt," although it was strange in its time. Fifty years ago there was a change in the current of Westernization, when dozens of companies for the first time took an Egyptian name.

But the "window" is being called "guichet." This must be making Tal'at Harb turn over in his grave.

(In addition: I have noticed that the Ministry of Housing and official government agency, uses the word "terrace" in its announcements of the sale of apartments. Arabic translates this as "balcony." The state itself infected it with the Westernization mentioned above.

12780
CSO: 4504/466

EGYPT

NEW GOVERNORATES, LAND OWNERSHIP TRANSFER PLANNED

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 7 Aug 85 p 1

/Article: "New Governorate between al-Buhayrah and Matruh; al-Uqsar to become Independent Governorate; Transfer of Ownership of 216,000 Feddans to Their Occupants"/

/Text/ It has been decided to create a new governorate of 600,000 feddans north-west of the delta, extending from Kilometer 151 to al-'Alamayn. It includes parts of the governorates of al-Buhayrah and Matruh. Further, it has been decided to transform al-Uqsar into an independent governorate for the sake of tourism and economic development.

It has also been decided to change the borders of the governorates of al-Buhayrah, al-Jizah and al-Minyfiyah, and to incorporate al-Sadat city and its environs into al-Minufiyah governorate to lower the population density of these governorates.

After his meeting yesterday with the ministers of agriculture, housing and land reclamation, irrigation and cabinet affairs, Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali explained that it has been decided to recommend that ownership of 216,000 feddans be transferred to its occupants. Committees were formed to determine the price of this land based on its condition and quality before reclamation and cultivation by its occupants.

Further, it was decided to stop all trespassing on land deposited by the river, to remove previous trespasses that had actually been restricted and to designate most of it for cultivation of vegetables by more modern agricultural methods to turn it over to the citizens.

The meeting also discussed the need for coordination among the Ministries of Irrigation, Housing and Agriculture to provide the water needed to cultivate approximately 1.7 million feddans, a reach of 2 kilometers beyond the area currently cultivated. It also reviewed projects whose construction is underway, those that will be constructed during the next 3 years and irrigation and reclamation projects during the next 5-year plan. It was decided to submit these projects to next week's meeting of the higher committee on policy.

12780
CSO: 4504/466

EGYPT

BRIEFS

MOBILE ELECTRICAL POWER STATIONS--An agreement was signed yesterday for technical cooperation between Egypt and Japan to provide eight mobile electrical transformer stations of various voltages and capacities to supply electricity to industrial areas immediately, until permanent electrical stations are put into operation. They also may be used in emergency situations because they are easily transported. Eng 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sayad, head of the electricity organization, explained that each of the eight stations are mounted on three large vehicles. The first holds the relays, the second the transformer and the third the distribution equipment. This new system is being used for the first time in Egypt. He added that these stations have 66/220 kilovolts with a capacity of 40 megavolts as printed. Two will be sent to the Abu Za'bal area to supply power to the National Company for Mineral Industries, since its permanent station will not be completed for 3 years; two to al-What al-Khrijah; one each to Kafr al-Dawar and Kafr al-Shaykh; and two to the Alexandria area, one to is 10 million pounds in a loan spread over 20 years with a 10 year grace period. /Text/ Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 6 Aug 85 p 1/ 12780

BRICK KILNS CLOSED--The water level police this morning began campaigns to follow through on implementation of a decree to close and shut down the red brick kilns in all of the governorates of the republic. The decree also seized any shoveled earth in the red brick factories, as well as green bricks that have not been fired. Maj Gen Munir Muhaysin, the assistant minister of the interior, explained that representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and the security forces will participate in campaigns in all governorates to assure implementation of the decree prohibiting the firing of red bricks. The director of the water level police added that the campaign does not include kilns that have been completed and given permission to produce clay bricks. /Text/ Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 11 Aug 85 p 8/ 12780

CSO: 4504/466

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI URGES CONGRESSES TO ABOLISH CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

LD031043 Tripoli JANA in English 0920 GMT 3 Sep 85

[Text] Sabha, Dulhija 19, Sep 3, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has proposed to the masses of the basic people's congresses, the decision-makers, to review capital punishment. He said, this a cruel punishment that does not suit a society that respects human dignity. He added, from a humane viewpoint it shouldn't be implemented.

In his speech, before the secretaries of the people's congresses and committees at the People Hall, Sabha, south Libya, al-Qadhdhafi pointed out that the Muslim Brotherhood who plot against the revolution have to be subjected to capital punishment in accordance with the Islamic shari'a.

He went on to say, if we catch a Muslim brother plotting against the revolution, then we apply to him the shari'a that he advocates. However, if he repents and joins the Jamahiri society, then we apply to him what we apply to ourselves.

In this respect he talked about those who are abroad and have been sentenced to death. He said: "That is still applicable, unless they repent and come back to Libya, the land of safety."

He added, as for those still awaiting trial, nobody can influence the courts and law. We wait till the courts issue verdicts and then capital punishment will be applied in accordance with the current penal code.

He added, those abroad who have been sentenced to death should be chased and death sentences should be carried out. He pointed out that they have been subjected to the death sentence because they started executing people and using sabotage, violence and undemocratic measures.

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi then called on those who would like to adopt democratic means to come back to the basic people's congresses in the country of safety. They have to repent then practise political activities from within these congresses.

He then stressed in that case we will accept their repentance. However, those who opt for using the undemocratic measures of sabotage, assassinations,

weapons and bombs and those refusing to repent, they should be killed by their own methods of terror and killing.

He then declared: All the Libyan Arab citizens abroad have the right and are free to come back to the Jamahiriya and they will not be punished for anything they commit against their homeland.

He said: All the Libyans abroad are secure to return to their homeland. They will have their full citizenship rights and that includes those who have been sentenced to death, on condition that they repent.

He concluded: Those who stay abroad and act against the interests of their homeland will be chased and punished.

CSO: 4500/202

LIBYA

BRIEFS

FAILED COUP ATTEMPT IN LIBYA--London, 6 Sep (INA)--In its Monday issue AL-DUSTUR magazine says: Some Arab diplomatic circles in the Libyan capital recently disclosed that there was a coup attempt against Colonel al-Qadhdhafi at dawn on Saturday, 31 August 1985. AL-DUSTUR adds: Colonel Khalifah Khidr, leader of troops massed by al-Qadhdhafi on the Tunisian borders, led the coup attempt, and al-Qadhdhafi's special forces detained him and 12 other leaders of the Air Force as well as 30 officers of the Libyan ground forces. These circles say that the fate of Colonel Khalifah and his colleagues is still unknown though it was frequently repeated that they were immediately brought before a military court. [Text] [Baghdad INA in Arabic 1232 GMT 6 Sep 85 JN]

CSO: 4500/202

SUDAN

SUDANESE PROSECUTOR GENERAL ON NUMAYRI'S EXTRADITION

GF151804 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 15 Aug 85 P 11

[Interview with Sudanese Prosecutor General 'Umar 'Adb-al-'Ati by AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I correspondent Mahmud Fawzi in Khartoum, date not given]

[Excerpts] [Mahmud Fawzi] Doubtless at the top of the list of questions is the issue of the memorandum which you are now writing regarding the extradition of former President Numayri, although it is known that his extradition contravenes article 53 of the Egyptian constitution.

['Umar 'Abd-al-'Ati] Numayri's extradition does not contravene the Egyptian constitution, as article 53 defines a political refugee as a person who has been persecuted in his country and deprived of the right of defense. Ja'far Numayri has not been persecuted and has not been deprived of the right to self-defense in his country. The proof of this is the case of his colleagues who have been put on trial. First among them is his first vice president. He is now in prison and provided with all means of comfort, a bed, a television set, and an ever-present lawyer to defend him. According to the Egyptian constitution, the definition does not apply to him.

[Fawzi] To be totally frank, in case Cairo does not turn over Ja'far Numayri, will you resort to Interpol?

['Abd-al-'Ati] Yes. Evidence for Numayri's financial, and non-political crimes and the Falashah issue has been prepared. We will present them to judicial authorities and to Interpol through official channels. This is not a problem since Egyptian judicial authorities protect him now. In this case there is no such thing as a political refugee.

[Fawzi] Do you believe that in the event former President Numayri is not extradited this will affect relations between the two countries?

['Abd-al-'Ati] Doubtless the talk that is going around now and the language that some sectors among the people have begun to use when speaking of Egypt would not take place if that man were not there. It is difficult to imagine Sudanese using this tone when speaking about Egypt to other Sudanese people, if they still have hope. The Egyptian masses are on our side, the popular groupings and political parties are on our side. Their support for us is honorable, although the Egyptian Government is on the side of Ja'far Numayri. What is more wonderful is that the masses in Egypt support Sudan. This is the origin of unity in that it imposes its view on governments.

CSO: 4500/198

SUDAN

BRIEFS

JUDGE ORDERS ARREST OF FORMER KORDOFAN OFFICIALS--Al-Ubayyid, Sudan, 4 Sep (SUNA)--Judge 'Ali al-Hulu, chairman of the investigation committee in the Kordofan Region, has issued an order to arrest Fadlallah Hammad, former deputy governor of the region, and three assistants of the dissolved SSU secretary. The judge said these persons were detained for investigation on charges of illegal wealth and on complaints submitted against them. He pointed out that their names were not among the names of former political detainees when the investigation committee was formed. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1413 GMT 4 Sep 85 JN]

ATTORNEY GENERAL ON RELEASE OF FRG SUBJECT--Khartoum, Aug 14 (SUNA)--Security authorities recently freed a Federal German subject. The German subject was caught by the authorities to be interrogated on his presence in the Al-Gadarif area in conditions which made his presence suspicious. This was announced by Attorney General 'Umar 'Abd-al-'Ati in press statements indicating that the German subject claimed before authorities that he had lost a number of vehicles which were working under the supervision of a voluntary organization in the area. 'Abd al-'Ati decided to cross-examine the German subject following the affirmation of a link between the foresaid voluntary organizations and the Falashas (Ethiopian Jews) transportation operation. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English 1740 GMT 14 Aug 85 JN]

SUDANESE ADVISED TO LEAVE 'TROUBLED' KAMPALA--Kampala, 14 Aug (SUNA)--The Sudanese Embassy here has advised Sudanese dependents to leave this troubled Ugandan capital for Nairobi on the heels of the deterioration of the security situation here. The Ugandan people were horrified by the random firing in the capital at midday today and the atmosphere soured for more than two hours today. The Ugandan citizens panicked by the firing were reportedly shuttling [as received] in the capital and some fled to the suburbs of the capital. A SUNA correspondent said the Sudanese nationals gathered at the residence of Sudanese Ambassador 'Ali 'Abd al-Rahman. The Sudanese Embassy was closed down immediately, the correspondent said. The firing in the capital followed the failure of the Reconciliations talks between the new military rulers and the resistance group led by Museveni in Tanzania yesterday. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English 1735 GMT 14 Aug 85 JN]

SIWAR-AL-DHAHAB CONFERS WITH U.S. CONGRESSMAN--Khartoum, 13 Aug (SUNA)--Transitional Military Council Chairman General 'Abd-al-Rahman Muhammad Hasan Siwar-al-Dhahab this morning received Howard Wolpe, Chairman of the U.S. Congressional Subcommittee for Africa, who is currently visiting the country. Following the meeting, Wolpe said that they discussed bilateral relations, political developments in Sudan, and Sudan's relations with neighboring countries. Wolpe expressed his belief that the United States will continue to support Sudan to overcome the current famine, adding that the United States has allocated \$800 million to support drought-stricken countries, especially Sudan and Ethiopia, to confront the consequences of this human tragedy. [Excerpt] [Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1438 GMT 13 Aug 85 JN]

SPLA CLAIMS EQUATORIA MILITARY LEADER 'SERIOUSLY' WOUNDED--Radio SPLA has just learned from a reliable source that the commander of Siwar-al-Dhahab's forces in Mongalla, who is the second in command of Equatoria military area, Brig 'Uthman al-Sayyid, was seriously wounded in the helicopter that was shot down recently by SPLA forces in Jummayah area. The Brigadier was rescued and is now in the military hospital in Omdurman. Although the authorities are still hiding it from him, the brigadier has lost his left eye. [Text] [(Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 14 Aug 85 EA]

ATTORNEY GENERAL ON FORMER SUNA DIRECTOR--Khartoum, 18 Aug (SUNA)--Attorney General 'Umar 'Abd-al-'Ati took legal procedures concerning the report submitted by the investigating committee of the SUDAN NEWS AGENCY (SUNA) and decided to file a suit against the accused, Mustafa Amin, the former director of (SUNA), and ten other persons comprised in the investigation. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English 1740 GMT 18 Aug 85 JN]

ATTORNEY GENERAL ORDERS FORMER OFFICIAL ARRESTED--Khartoum, 24 Aug SUNA--AL-SAHAFAH local newspaper said in its issue today that attorney general ordered the arrest of Ab-Bakr 'Uthman Muhammad Salih who was a secretary general for integration in status of deputy prime minister. It is worth noting that the order was executed yesterday, Friday. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English 0925 GMT 24 Aug 85 JN]

MINISTER LAUDS SPLA CEASE-FIRE ON 'ID AL-ADHA--Khartoum, 31 Aug (SUNA)--The Information and Culture Minister Dr Muhammad Bashir Hamid has commended the Sudan People's Liberation Army [SPLA] led by Col. John Garang for its decision to cease military operations during the Mohslem Bairam feast ['Id al-Adha--FBIS] describing it to be a good initiative. In statements attributed to him by the AL-SAHAFAH daily published here today, the minister expressed hope for the SPLA to continue the cease-fire to allow for the convening of the national conference to solve the southern problem. He also expressed the wish that Col Garang should participate in the conference. Dr Hamid further said the SPLA initiative to halt fighting would serve as an opener for dialogue between the SPLA and government if it continues to hold. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English 1017 GMT 31 Aug 85 JN]

ATTORNEY GENERAL ON TRIALS OF OFFICIALS--Khartoum, 2 Sep (SUNA)--Former manager of the SUDAN NEWS AGENCY Mustafa Amin will stand trial for charges ranging between abuse of power and misappropriation of public money, said

Attorney General 'Umar 'Abd-al-'Ati. He said the recent release of Amin and SSU leading figure Hashim al-Zubayr was made according to the state security code for 1973 that stipulates the release of defendants once the investigation is over. The release of these two men should not imply that they are innocent, he said. He said al-Zubayr is facing charges of bribery and embezzlement. The role of the attorney general chamber comes to an end once the investigation is over and the charge is defined the case is then reported to the judiciary for action, he further explained. The attorney general said the chamber is doing its best to minimize the application of the state security code for 1973 in anticipation for its annulment at the right moment. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English 1010 GMT 2 Sep 85 JN]

OFFICIAL WARNS AGAINST AIDING OUTLAWS--Juba, Sudan, 31 Aug (SUNA)--Military Governor of Equatoria region Major General Peter Cirillo has called on parties and people who used to cooperate with the outlaws to stop conspiracies against the homeland. In a meeting with some southern officials and political leaders, Cirillo confirmed that his government would strongly hit those who will try to exploit democracy so as to hinder security and stability in the country. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English 1740 GMT 31 Aug 85 JN]

SUDANESE DEPUTY PREMIER AGAINST ARMING CITIZENS--Samuel Aru Bol. Sudanese deputy prime minister and leader of the political grouping in southern Sudan, has stated that he does not support the idea of arming citizens in Kordofan and Darfur. The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD quoted him as saying that arming a group of Sudanese citizens against another will create instability. He called on all to work with national spirit and make efforts to resolve national issues, foremost of which is the issue of southern Sudan. Aro Pol talked about the situation of Sudan's current democracy and affirmed the need to unify ranks and establish bases of democracy. He called on the executive committee, after the constitution is approved, to find a settlement to the problem of the south and to sit at the negotiations table. [Text] [Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 30 Aug 85 GF]

COURT FREES FORMER OFFICIAL, SENTENCES OTHERS--Khartoum, 31 Aug (SUNA)--A former state security officer has been declared innocent, here today, by Judge Na'im 'Adnan for lack of evidence concerning the case. The state security officer known as 'Asim al Kabbashi was accused of torturing a citizen during the reign of defunct regime of Numayri. The judge ordered setting him free. However, the same court has ruled a fine of three thousand Sudanese pounds on other seven former state security men and woman who have participated in torturing the plaintiff Mr Bashir Hamad. The court also sentenced the seven people to five years of imprisonment. Its worth noting that the plaintiff Bashir Hamad has willingly donated the 27 thousand pounds ruled to him by the court, to the drought and famine plagued areas in the country. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English 1750 GMT 31 Aug 85 JN]

SPLA REPORTS DECEASED CHUOLS FOLLOWERS JOIN SPLA-SPLM--In a special and urgent report to the Sudanese People's Liberation Army-Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLA-SPLM] leader Colonel Dr John Garang de Mabior, Lieutenant Colonel William Nyuan Bany, member of the SPLA High Command and member of the SPLM Executive Committee has affirmed that waves of the

followers of the deceased traitor, William Abdullah Chuol, have continued to turn up at several SPLA unit locations. According to Lt Col Nyuan Bany, they are now being integrated with the ranks of the SPLA-SPLM satisfactorily in accordance with the plans laid down earlier by the SPLA High Command for that purpose. Forty-six of Abdu-lah Chuol's men, led by Lieutenant (Makir Nyal Bilu), reported recently to the Headquarters of Battalion 104 and 105. They have said that more of their colleagues were already on their way to the SPLA. Speaking to Radio SPLA reporter, 1st Lt (Makir Bilu) said that Abdullah Chuol had misled them until they realized at last that they had become servants of the interests of Numayri and Siwar-al-Dhabab. These interests were being directly opposed to those of the Sudanese masses as expressed by the principles of objectives of the SPLA-SPLM [as heard]. It is worth mentioning that the decisive battle, in which Abdu-lah Chuol was killed and which had been conducted under the overall command of Major John Kulang, was directly led by the following officers. [Excerpt] [(Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 21 Aug 85 EA]

OUTGOING KENYAN AMBASSADOR--Khartoum, 11 Aug (SUNA)--Transitional Military Council Chairman General 'Abd-al-Rahman Siwar-al-Dhabab received Kenyan Ambassador Daniel Mboya this morning. The ambassador said the meeting dealt with bilateral relations and ways to promote them. The meeting took place on the occasion of the ambassador's end of term of office in Sudan. He spent 3 years as his country's ambassador in Khartoum. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1410 GMT 11 Aug 85 JN]

RHINO BATTALION REPORTS COURT PRESIDENTS DEFECT--Radio SPLA correspondent in Bahr al-Ghazal Administrative area has been told by Rhino Battalion's commander, Lieutenant-Colonel P.S.C. [expansion unknown--fbis] Martin Makur Aleo, that a number of court presidents and members of the jury in Bahr al-Ghazal have defected to join the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA]-SUDANESE People's Liberation Movement [SPLM]. Quoting Rhino Battalion's commander, the correspondent has informed Radio SPLA that (Ayey Ubiy Guak), president of (Kayango) Court, and (Upiyu Uwaj Ajtugu) and (Niyut Fucha Labil), presidents of (ufi) and Kangi branch courts respectively reported to the Rhino Battalion Headquarters with all the members of their courts where they declared their membership of the movement, pledging their absolute support and loyalty to it. Our correspondent added that the court presidents were officially received into the movement on its leadership's behalf by Lt Col P.S.C. Martin Makur Aleo, commander of Rhino Battalion. [Text] [(Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 27 Aug 85 EA]

TRIPOLI: SUDAN ENVOY DENIES LIBYANS SUPPORTING GARANG--Brother 'Abd al-Majid al-Ahmad, the Sudanese ambassador to the Jamahiriyyah, has categorically denied allegations by some Western media that the Sudanese prime minister, Dr Al-Jazuli Daf'alla said that the Jamahiriyyah is still supporting John Garang and is still supplying him with weapons. In a statement to the Jamahiriyyah radio, the Sudanese ambassador said that Radio London allegations quoting Sudanese AL-AYYAM in this respect are completely untrue. He added that the Sudanese minister of culture and information has commissioned him to convey to the brother secretary of the Jamahiriyyah General Committee for Information and Culture, with whom he conferred this evening, that the

Sudanese prime minister is personally denying these allegations, which said that the Jamahiriyah is still supporting John Garang and supplying him with weapons. The Sudanese ambassador criticized the Western media, which blocked the Sudanese prime minister's denial and refutation of this matter. He said that this indicates that the enemies of the Arab people in Libya and Sudan are trying to drive a wedge into the existing fraternal relations between the sons of the one Arab people in the two fraternal countries, and to disturb these fraternal relations. The Sudanese ambassador stressed that the Jamahiriyah has stopped all support to John Garang since the victory of the popular revolution in Sudan, and that it has invited John Garang to enter into a dialogue for the unity of the Sudanese people, which has also been called for by Sudan. [Text] [Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2015 GMT 29 Aug 85 LD]

CSO: 4500/198

TUNISIA

TUNIS REPORTS MZALI SPEECH WORKERS IN LIBYA, STRIKES

LD041827 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Sep 85

[Text] The general secretary of the party and the prime minister and minister of interior, Mohamed Mzali, chaired, at noon today at the party house a meeting of the party Political Bureau and the government, members of the National Assembly, members of the party Central Committee, representatives of the national organizations, members of the General Union of Tunisian Workers [UGTT] Executive Council, a group of the Tunisian Army officers, and a large number of representatives of Tunisian and foreign media and news agencies.

In the first part the prime minister analyzed the stages of the Tunisian-Libyan crisis and pointed out the dimensions which the Libyan regime is seeking to achieve through its recent behavior toward Tunis. In the second part of this statement [word indistinct] an analysis of the development of the government's relation with the UGTT and the crisis arising from the stand of some of this organization's leaders who are seeking to paralyze the country's economy through a series of strikes which they keep threatening to stage in a number of (?important) sectors.

Mr Mohamed Mzali explained that this meeting falls within the framework of holding direct contacts, exchanging information, learning lessons from, and holding a dialogue with the cadres of the nation about the circumstances being imposed on the country from abroad and from within; the government and the people are facing these circumstances with calm firmness, steel-like determination, and unlimited self-confidence. He underlined, in this respect, the responsible, patriotic, and sincere stances of the information media and all Tunisian papers without exception toward the arbitrary expulsion of thousands of Tunisian workers by the Libyan regime. He also hailed international information media which have given the development of Tunisian-Libyan relations its adequate attention and enlightened world opinion on the nature of the crisis and the hidden intentions to harm Tunisia; this has made public opinion sympathetic with and supportive of Tunisia.

Mohamed Mzali addressed thanks and gratitude to all friendly and sisterly countries which expressed their sympathy with Tunisia [word indistinct] oral support [words indistinct]. In this respect he stressed that what the two presidents, Habib Bourguiba and Chadli Bendjedid, have achieved will never be separated, noting that the Algerian president's visit to Tunisia 2 days ago

was a consecration of the bonds of brotherhood and true solidarity which exist between the two countries and peoples.

The prime minister announced, while reviewing the measures taken by the government to face the development of the crisis in relations with the Libyan regime, the withdrawal of all workers and technicians working in Libya. Tunisia calls on the Libyan regime to set up a technical committee to study the conditions and circumstances of the Tunisian workforce's final return to the homeland while respecting the contents of the agreements concluded between the two sides regarding ensuring the rights of the Tunisian workforce.

The prime minister stressed in his statement that the crisis in the relations between the two countries which has arisen as a result of the behavior of some members of the Libyan regime will not harm Tunisia's and the Tunisian people's relations with the fraternal Libyan people. We love and respect them and we have kinship relations, and historical and struggle relations which go back for centuries with them.

Within his talk about the international situation, Mohamed Mzali recalled the big achievements realized by the government of the great combatant, President Habib Bourguiba, in the trade unionist and social fields. He renewed the government's commitments to the contents of the agreements concluded between the government and the UGTT in 1977 which stipulate the linkage between the rises in wages and increasing and improving productivity.

He pointed out, on the other hand, that the government respects the right to strike and is prepared to shoulder its duty in ensuring the right to work and the enforcement of the law on whomever breaks it.

Mr Mohamed Mzali stressed that in order to face every eventuality in the external and internal domain, the government and the party have taken every necessary measure [sentence indistinct] and to be fully prepared to defend the sovereignty of Tunisia and to defend it and to protect the social achievements which were realized by the Bourguibian regime within its continuous struggle to raise the standard of the Tunisian people and to ensure the means of dignity and invincibility for them.

CSO: 4500/201

TUNISIA

SIGNIFICANCE OF MTI'S COMING INTO OPEN DISCUSSED

East Burnham ARABIA: THE ISLAMIC WORLD REVIEW in English Aug 85 pp 36, 37

[Article by Mustapha Shirazi]

[Text] The Tunisian Islamists' decision on June 6 to come into the open was a significant political step that is likely to have many repercussions. In a communique issued on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the Islamic Trend Movement (ITM), the leaders said that their movement "stands by its right for open action as a choice in order to go along with reality and to be in harmony with the open nature of Islamic dawa."

A five-man political bureau has been set up to preside over ITM activities. Rashed Ghannoushi remains chairman of the movement, with Abdelfettah Moro as secretary-general; Habib Swissi has been given the information department, Hammadi Jibali has become the political relations officer, while Habib Louz is responsible for dawa and education.

The ITM's decision to operate overtly puts an end to nearly 10 months of a tacit *modus vivendi* with the Tunisian authorities. It was last August that the remaining ITM officials, including Rashed Ghannoushi and Abdelfettah Moro, were set free after three years' imprisonment. Their release was the outcome of pressure on Prime Minister M'zali, but the authorities were keen to follow-up — in more discreet ways this time — the repression of the Islamists. All the known activists have been refused passports, except for Abdelfettah Moro whose profession as a barrister obliged the authorities to allow him to travel abroad.

The regime has refused to recognise the existence of the Islamic Trend Movement as a legal party while ignoring the Islamists' request for permission to resume publishing *Al-Maarifa*, their

mouthpiece, banned four years ago. Meanwhile the Islamists have not been allowed to hold meetings and their prominent officials have been under surveillance. Rashed Ghannoushi was repeatedly summoned by the police and reproached for raising political issues in his speeches. Yet another repressive innovation which will paradoxically serve the Islamists' cause is the "starvation policy." Most of the ITM's active members — who are generally teachers or public servants in government institutions — lost their jobs and have so far been denied employment in the public sector. Moreover, identified members or sympathisers of ITM who were not in prison are deliberately held by the police for a few days, following which they lose their employment for "unjustified absence."

This measure, however, has not overcome the Tunisian Islamists' determination to pursue their political activity. Political practice is an absolute priority for the ITM. In its view, it is a crime against the people for Muslims, wherever they may be, to concentrate on purely religious and cultural activities and leave the political scene for the secularists.

M'zali grasped the Islamists' purpose and took it seriously when he came to power in 1980. In fact his liberalisation policy — with its subsequent "limited" political pluralism proposed in April 1981 — was intended to stifle the Islamists by favouring the secular, then semi-clandestine, opposition in what would appear to be a democratic set-up. The Islamists decided to boycott the legislative elections scheduled for November 1981.

The official establishment of the Islamic Trend Movement on June 8, 1981, and the request for it to be recognised as a legal national party, were seized by the authorities as pretexts for eradication of the movement, whose popularity has been of great concern to the regime and to some of its friendly powers, France in particular. But the imprisonment of the 106 top officials of ITM on July 18, 1981 and the subsequent harsh sentences served against them early in autumn that year backfired on the regime. The repression of Islamists brought about a hue and cry from the opposition and the independent groups, which saw the authorities' move as a strategy aimed at neutralising adversaries one by one. Moreover, apolitical sections of ordinary Muslims who, so far, had had no connection with the ITM, extended support to their "oppressed Muslim brothers."

Meanwhile the ITM went underground and continued work from Paris, where many of its members took refuge. In the first week of January 1983, 40 student Islamist leaders were arrested in a second major crackdown on ITM. That very month a second political bureau was formed, headed by Iammadi Jibali as the new secretary-general. The rapidity of the replacement of the ITM leadership and the mounting popular pressure brought home to Premier M'zali that direct repression could not eradicate the Islamic movement.

With an anti-Islamic image, M'zali could not hope to win the people's support — hence a change of tactics was necessary without the regime appearing to lose face. The remaining prominent ITM detainees were therefore released in August 1984, but M'zali then introduced his "starvation policy" as well as the aforementioned series of measures designed to muzzle the Islamists and cripple their activities. It was this situation which led the ITM leaders to put an end to their status of "tolerated" people on the date of ITM's fourth anniversary.

The communique published on June 6 renews ITM's adherence to Islamic teachings in theory and practice and states that Islam is the movement's "ideological base from which derive its various views and choices for the sake of the building of the modern Muslim society." It condemns

the prevention of Muslim intellectuals from following up the "God-imposed obligation" to educate the Muslim masses, and recalls that the mosque is "an educational institution" which had never been under government control before Bourguiba's rule.

Among the many basic civil liberties which have been violated by the authorities, the communique refers to the ban on Islamic dress under decree 108 which the Islamists consider to be "a shameful episode in the history of Tunisia." After expressing consistent support for the main popular workers' union the UGTT, for the Human Rights League and the world's impoverished people, the Tunisian Islamists call on all the national forces to act towards the adoption of a charter that would regulate social and political relations. Such a charter would be prepared by all the existing political formations and submitted to the people's approval, far from any monopoly or influence.

Also called for is concerted action so as to prevent mass conflicts and block the way to foreign interference and ambitions. The emphasis by ITM officials on such a democratic approach was noted even by anti-Islamist quarters. The call for a general legal amnesty for *all* prisoners and those exiled for their ideas and political affiliation, as well as for an end to torture and preventive detention, has attracted general interest.

Meanwhile the government has been facing widespread workers' unrest over wages, reflected by the boycott of the May 12 municipal election. ITM, the social democrats (MDS), the Popular Unity Party (PUP) and the communists said in a joint communique that there were several reasons for the boycott, including the ban or suspension of the opposition press, which made it impossible for them to campaign, and in general because of the ruling party's despotic rule which provides no guarantees for a fair election.

The ITM's increased contacts with the opposition parties and its defence of their rights, as well as its own, has contributed much to alter the popular image of the Islamists — they are not seen as the "fanatics" and "reactionaries" that they are painted as by government propaganda. This will serve to further constrain the government strategy in meeting the Islamists' challenge.

BAHRAIN

BRIEFS

UNITED GULF BANK PROFITS--The United Gulf Bank, which is one of the "offshore" banking units operating in Bahrain, yielded profits that amounted to \$2,059,358 during the first half of the current year. Bank sources revealed that these profits were realized as a natural result of the total revenues amounting to \$5,555,853 and the operation's expenses amounting to \$3,407,253 and the shareholders' share of the loss of the companies belonging to the Bank which reached \$89,242. Bank sources added that the total value of the Bank's assets and liabilities amounted to \$716,226,328 by the end of the first half of this year. Meanwhile, the stockholders' holdings amounted to \$248,492,227 in the same period, in spite of the losses suffered by the Bank throughout the last 2 years, 1983-1984. [Text] [Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 17 Aug 85 p 6] 13035

CSO: 4404/451

IRAQ

MAJOR DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY STUDIED

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 8 Jul 85 p 3

[Article by Yasir al-Mitwalli: "Serious Studies To Develop Electronics Studies in the Country; New TV, Radio, Telephone and Computer Models"]

[Text] During the current year, the Electrical Industries Company has achieved considerable progress in production at a 46 percent rate over last year's plan. Company director, Mr Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rafi' al-Uraybi, said that the company's new directions have been devoted to manufacturing new kinds of radio recorders which will be put on the market after the trade regulation committee sets a price for it.

The second half of this year will witness an ample supply of stereo radio recorders, small and large computers and home computers, while the special business microcomputer will be put on the market at the end of this year.

Mr al-Uraybi talked about the production of new 16-inch and 26-inch color TV models which will be put on the market at the end of the first quarter of next year.

The company's 1986-1990 5-year plan includes a higher production capacity by company lines to meet the people's demands for company production. Work is underway to design a new generation of 100 percent Iraqi radios without any foreign expertise. There are new models of table and alarm clock radios.

The company is conducting various studies of the production of electronic switchboards and other communications equipment such as push-button telephones.

[Question] What about the video industry?

[Answer] I would like to say that the company is active and serious in its studies to expand via the production of audio-visual cassettes and other studies to determine the future and diversity of the electronics industries. With regard to the video industry, the company is studying local video production from various aspects. All these directions I have mentioned toward modernization in the telephone and switchboard industry and expansion in the computer, TV and radio industries fall within the new 5-year plan. The implemented part of the plan comes in light of the company's directions to

meet the people's need for home appliances and to cover the increased demand for these kinds of products. The company is determined to do more to supply the people's needs in the age of progress, civilization and modern technology.

[Question] What about after-sale services?

[Answer] The company owns one after-sale service center in the Baghdad district which services company products. A search is underway for a site for another center which will include all services. Another study is underway to contract out after-sale services in the other districts which are currently handled by the Iraqi Trade Company.

Mr. al-Uraybi concluded his talk by pointing out that the company is busy studying the construction of a maintenance complex for its future production of computers and other equipment, while the projected idea of the complex is to contain training halls to prepare qualified personnel in this field so as to provide the best services to the people and the various sides which own this equipment.

Mr Karim Shalash al-Dulaymi, the company's assistant manager, said the considerable progress the company has experienced in the last few years was the result of unlimited support from the party leadership and the revolution and of constant follow-up by the minister of light industries.

"I would like to point out that our company has embarked upon the export phase and has begun exporting its surplus to get hard currencies. Demand for our products abroad is great. This is a testimony to the high reputation of our national industry which has developed in the past few years."

About the national campaign to raise production efficiency rates, Mr Karim Shalash explained that "the company realized a 40 percent increase due to the awareness and industriousness of company employees to meet the national responsibilities dictated by this phase. Consequently, seminars and a large number of meetings have played a role in the process of raising employee production awareness.

"Moreover, our company has been awarded a certificate of appreciation by the General Federation of Labor Unions for the good results it achieved in the national campaign."

12502
CSO: 4404/437

JORDAN

ELECTRICITY CONTROL CENTER UPDATE

East Burnham ARABIA: THE ISLAMIC WORLD REVIEW in English Jul 85 p 76

[Text]

JORDAN Electricity Authority (JEA) is currently upgrading the existing telecontrol equipment at their Amman supervisory control centre; preparation of draft bidding documents to cover new requirements and functional specifications has been started (in co-operation with a European utility consultant) to bring the level of existing control centre functions to that appropriate to a national control centre. JEA has awarded a complete consultancy service contract to Ewbank Preece Power and Water of the UK (part of the international Ewbank Preece Consulting Group) to undertake the role of engineer for the whole project.

The present control centre monitors Jordan's entire 132kV transmission network. Continuous development of the country's power generation, transmission and distribution facilities in the past few years has necessitated upgrading this equipment. The new telecontrol system, due to be completed in 1989, will be designed for maximum flexibility to ensure that the control centre can function at a national level and can accommodate further expansion up to the year 2000,

including a planned 400kV network.

Telecontrol equipment currently installed will be reviewed, and enhanced facilities to be incorporated in new designs include on-line data processing for control and load despatching. The control centre at present monitors the 132kV and 33kV systems for alarm situations, indicates system loading and voltage levels and circuit breaker positions; and permits remote control of circuit breakers, transformer tap positions and gas turbine generators. The JEA system already incorporates a comprehensive telephone communications system providing automatic speech communications between all generating stations and substations and the control centre.

Ewbank Preece is responsible for co-engineering design work and for complete contract management and commissioning in conjunction with JEA. The contract is a continuation of Ewbank Preece's previous work for JEA: other current projects include the Fuheis substation and the Amman Aqaba 400kV transmission line.

CSO: 4400/250

KUWAIT

BRIEFS

TUNISIAN-KUWAITI COOPERATION--Tunis, 31 Aug (KUNA)--Tunisian Premier and Interior Minister Mohamed Mzali has praised Tunisian-Kuwaiti economic cooperation during a celebration Friday evening marking the inauguration of a water filtering and pumping station in Manuba area to the north west of here. Mzali said that the Tunisian-Kuwaiti relationship is based on true Arab and Islamic fraternity and fruitful cooperation to attain joint interests of both parties. The premier extended his government's thanks to the Kuwaiti Government, the Kuwaiti fund for Arab economic development and the World Bank for their assistance in accomplishing the station. The project, which cost 45 million Tunisian dinars, around 50 million dollars, targets supplying the greater Tunis area with drinking water. [Text] [Kuwait KUNA in English 1400 GMT 31 Aug 85 LD]

IDENTITY CARDS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER ISSUE--Faysal 'abd al-Rahman al-Shayiji, director general of the general body for civil information, has stated that the various departments and the administration of the body are working hard to actually issue the new civil identity cards at the beginning of October. In an exclusive report to AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM, Mr Al-Shayiji said: The card will be issued to each member of the family including expatriates. This identity card, which will not be a family card as in some countries, carries a permanent number called the civil number. Each person born before 1 January 1970 will be issued a card which includes the person's photograph. Those born after this date will receive cards without photographs, but with the card number of the next of kin. [passage omitted on shape and automation of card.] [Excerpt] [Kuwait AL-RAY AL-AMM in Arabic 11 Aug 85 p 1 GF]

CSO: 4400/252

LEBANON

MOSCOW WARNS LEBANON OF AGGRESSIVE AMERICAN PLAN

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 6 Jul 85 p 28

[Article by Ghassan Bayram: "Moscow's 'Secret' Message to Beirut: The Old Man in the White House May Undertake Crazy Military Action"]

[Text] The role minister Nabih Birri played in the American airline hijacking which shook and confused the United States was not so much a mass media show as it was a political one through which he participated in the management of the gravest policial game which reflected the seriousness of the international and regional conflict in the Lebanese and Middle Eastern theatres. This conflict reached its peak when the American defense minister, Caspar Weinberger, threatened to declare a state of war and when the American president threatened to wage an economic war against Lebanon and the Shiite Muslims, wherever they may be.

Compared to the tragic end of the hijacked Jordanian airliner, which was blown up at Beirut airport, the end of the hijacked American airliner was a happy one in view of the anticipated American and Israeli reactions, particularly when units of the American fleet moved into position along Lebanese territorial waters as a warning and threat. This is in addition to the signs given by the Israeli military boats, which in turn cruised in Lebanese waters.

The question being asked was: did the airliner crisis assume such an international and regional dimension and such a proportion, which brought to mind the American embassy hostage problem in Tehran, only because the hijacked airliner was American and the hostages were American also, or what was it?

The issue in the opinion of the Americans was not that at all, according to a prominent American diplomat. Rather, it went far beyond this framework in meaning and significance. Hijacking, if stripped of its true meaning and dimensions, remains in its ordinary framework and can be dealt with calmly. The price for releasing the airplane and the hostages was easy: release the Lebanese detainees in Isreli prisons who were supposed to have been released as were their comrades before them. However, the issue, and its significance and dimensions, are related to the present and future of American policy in the Middle East, and perhaps to America's strategic interests in this part of the world.

The Americans felt that hijacking the plane and taking hostage its passengers, following the Jordanian airplane incident, were signs of escalation aimed at confusing the American initiative in the area and putting into flux the political initiatives the Reagan administration was undertaking to push the American settlement plan on the basis of the Jordanian-Palestinian option.

This was one of the explanations that knowledgeable diplomatic and political circles in the Lebanese capital were busy analyzing. The other holds that the U.S. order to airline companies to stop all their activities at Beirut airport was based on the belief that such a measure can spare it the possibility of any American airliner being hijacked at Beirut airport which has been a haven for anarchy over the last 2 years.

Based on this point of departure and this perception of things, American reaction assumed the proportions it did. This is what prompted the American defense minister to consider the incident a kind of declared war which gave the U.S. the right to retaliate through appropriate means under the slogan of self-defense.

These diplomatic and political explanations, largely from Western sources, may have gone too far and may have overstepped the boundaries of reason. The American hostage problem in Beirut, however, assumed international proportions which threatened to break out into a war aimed at striking at Beirut and perhaps other areas in the Middle East. There is no doubt that the state of tension which almost exploded was quickly defused when Syria came on line in a strong and open manner and when Moscow intervened, asking for a quick, peaceful settlement of the American hostage problem when the matter occupied part of the Syrian president's talks with the Soviet leader, Gorbachev, and the other Soviet leaders.

Diplomatic reports say that Moscow remained silent and was satisfied with observing the situation until the American administration asked the Soviet leadership publicly to announce a position on events in and around Beirut airport concerning the hostages, a request said to be more a warning than a source of hope. The prompt Russian reply came through a press conference held by the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman in which he described the holding of the American hostages as a "human tragedy."

This public Soviet position was the subject of local interest and comments. But more interesting were the secret contacts Moscow undertook through its diplomatic channels in Beirut in which it warned against going too far in the operation in view of the possible dangerous complications which could have led to international involvement in this crisis.

Knowledgeable, highly-placed sources revealed the contents of the message the Soviets sent in this regard in which they said, "do not embarrass too much this old man sitting on the White House throne because there is nothing to stop him from undertaking a crazy military action which can threaten peace in the Middle East. Ronald Reagan is in his last term and does not

pay any mind to public opinion and is a man at the end of his life whose only personal ambition is to go down in history, even through such an adventure which he will claim to have undertaken to safeguard America's dignity and pull it out of the mud."

This Soviet position could have passed as an attempt to prevent the involvement of the two giants in heated confrontations, or at least as an endeavor to stop America from using the hostage issue as a pretext for military intervention in Lebanon and the region.

Besides the fact that such considerations often rule the game of conflict between the two giants, diplomatic reports gathered from several European and Arab sources were keen on placing the Soviet position within the framework of new directions in Soviet foreign policy, in the Middle East particularly, that call for the adoption of diplomacy in confronting American policy because there was no reason to turn to confrontational positions or violence with the Americans.

It seems that Damascus and other concerned Arab sides lived through these climates before and after President al-Asad's visit to Moscow. Whatever has been said about the outcome of the visit, it remains one of the most important Soviet-Syrian summit meetings because it came at a time when the Lebanese crisis and Middle East problems were at a crucial turning point, while the international horizon was signaling the beginning of a phase of detente between the two giants, the chapters and frameworks of which were gradually taking shape.

12502
CSO: 4404/432

LEBANON

BRIEFS

BANK OF LEBANON REVENUES--A Lebanese economic delegation, headed by Ambassador Samih al-Baba, director of economic affairs in the Foreign Ministry, plans to go to the USSR to hold talks aimed at rejuvenating trade cooperation between the two countries. This visit was tied to the peripheral talks Prime Minister Rashid Karami held in Moscow when he attended the funeral of Soviet President Chernenko. It was understood that the talks were aimed at reviving the clearing agreement between the two countries to guarantee the exportation of Lebanese products to the USSR. This step follows agreements or draft agreements Lebanon has concluded with a number of East Bloc countries, including Bulgaria, Rumania and Hungary. [Text] [Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 6 Jul 85 p 39] 12502

1984 PROFITS OF BANK OF LEBANON--Profits realized by the Bank of Lebanon in 1984 amounted to about 1,222,500,000 Lebanese pounds, 244.5 million of which goes to the bank under the Monetary and Credit Law and the rest, 80 percent, goes to the government. The bank's profits, 40 percent over 1983 profits, were due to higher interest rates on foreign currency, namely the Bank of Lebanon reserve deposited in banks abroad. The decrease in the Bank of Lebanon reserve was somewhat made up for when interest rates rose. [Text] [Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 6 Jul 85 p 39] 12502

CSO: 4404/457

OMAN

FOREIGN ASSETS UP

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 2 Sep 85 p 4

[Text]

MUSCAT—A 43.38 per cent improvement is in evidence in Oman's foreign assets at the end of June, as compared to the corresponding period last year.

The respective figures were RO500.82 million and RO349.04 million.

According to the Central Bank's quarterly bulletin, balance with banks abroad, at RO538.6 million, was 60.69 per cent higher than in June 1984 (RO357.43 million) and SDRs position rose to 53.56 per cent, at RO3.38 million (RO2.2 million).

Gold's position was more or less the same, at RO26.26 million (RO26.1 million), while there were marginal drops in the reserve position in the IMF, RO10.89 million (RO11.32 million), and other foreign assets, RO21.69 million (RO21.98 million).

The position at the end of last year was RO551.86 million (gold RO26.26 million, SDRs, RO3.22 million, reserve position in the IMF RO11.33 million, balance with banks abroad RO490.84 million and other foreign assets RO21.98 million).

CSO: 440/247

OMAN

GDP INCREASES

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 20 Aug 85 p 10

[Text]

MUSCAT—The level of overall economic activity in Oman, fared better in 1984 than in the previous year.

Its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) which registered a growth of nearly five per cent in 1983 when it was RO2.74 billion, increased by 11 per cent last year to reach RO3.047 billion.

The Gross National Product (GNP) rose 8.4 per cent in 1984, to RO2.627 billion, according to the Central Bank of Oman's quarterly bulletin. The GNP had recorded a 1.6 per cent rise in 1983.

The faster growth was attributed partly to a spurt in government expenditure which has a significant influence on the non-oil sector's growth.

While government expenditure rose by 14 per cent in 1984, compared to nine per cent in 1983, non-oil GDP also rose, from 14 to 18 per cent.

Another factor contributing to the better performance of the economy is the oil sector. In 1983, oil-based GDP slumped by 3.5 per cent, owing to a marked drop in oil prices which more than offset the increase in oil production.

Last year, on the other hand, output increased at a decidedly higher rate as against the slight decline in prices, resulting in the oil sector's contribution to GDP rising by 4.1 per cent, to reach RO1.409 billion.

Over the 1980-84 period, the oil sec-

tor registered an annual growth rate of three per cent, while the non-oil sector grew at around 20 per cent.

The relative share of the non-oil sector in the total GDP rose from 38.6 per cent to 53.8 per cent in the five-year span.

The growth in the non-oil sector has been encouraging, and confirms the success accomplished by the government in diversifying the economy. Most notable are the developments sweeping the farm and fisheries and livestock and the manufacturing sectors.

The farm-fisheries-livestock sector grew at an annual rate of 17 per cent since 1980, from RO53 million to RO89 million. The fisheries, logging a 20 per cent annual growth rate, contributed RO32 million last year, including RO6 million from exports.

Industrialisation, though still in its infancy, is rapidly growing, as indicated by the level of output from the sector.

During 1980-84, the industrial sector at an annual rate of 56 per cent, from RO15.6 million to RO92.3 million. Big increases were observed in 1983 and 1984, with the commencement of operations at the oil refinery and two cement plants.

The breakdown of expenditure on GDP shows that consumption has grown by 10 per cent in 1984, while the annual average growth rate since 1980 has been 12.6 per cent.

CSO: 4400/247

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

FATAH'S AL-HASAN SAYS JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT STILL VALID

PM040801 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Sep 85 p 1

[Al-sharq AL-AWSAT bureau report on interview with Hani al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member and political adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, in Cairo; date not specified]

[Text] Cairo--Hani al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member and Political Adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, asserted that the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement is still valid and is serving its purpose in creating a unified Jordanian-Palestinian stand vis-a-vis the U.S.-Israeli stand as well as in rallying the Arab situation in the interest of the Palestinian problem.

Al-Hasan, who is now holding talks in Cairo within the Palestinian delegation visiting Egypt, pointed out that the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement has actually succeeded in rallying 17 Arab countries at the recent Arab summit and that efforts are now directed toward expanding this circle.

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT al-Hasan stressed that the current visit to Cairo by the Palestinian delegation was in accordance with a decision adopted by Fatah Central Committee at its recent meeting in Tunis. The visit, he said, comes at an important juncture and aims at obtaining a consensus of views on the current developments in the area. We in the PLO and Fatah movement insist that Egypt should resume its role in the Arab arena.

Al-Hasan said that this insistence stems from the fact that we in the PLO reject the Camp David accord but, at the same time, reject any excuse that impedes work to bring Egypt back to the Arab ranks so as to play its role there. We believe that the area in general is heading for major confrontations because whenever a political development is imminent there are preparations in the area for confrontation. We have to marshal all our forces in readiness for this confrontation, be it political or military confrontation.

He continued: For this reason we have found it necessary to pay a visit in order to contact the Egyptian official quarters and the Egyptian political forces represented in the Egyptian committee on solidarity in order to convey the Palestinian views and stress the need for preparations for the coming confrontation, particularly since [U.S. envoy] Richard Murphy has begun to give in to Israeli extortion and the Reagan-Gorbachev summit is going to take place in Geneva in November.

Replying to a question about the resolutions of the recent Arab summit and the discussions that took place in it regarding the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement and the assertion by the Jordanian and Palestinian leaderships that it is an internal matter concerning the two countries and should not be put to the summit for discussion, he said: The agreement is an implementation of the Fes summit resolutions. Therefore we are not in need for a new Arab resolution. If the conferees found a need to discuss the Amman accord, then it is the right of the Arab nation and its governments to discuss it and to see whether it accords with the Fes resolutions or is contrary to them. The summit came out with a resolution saying that it has noted with appreciation the Jordanian-Palestinian moves which culminated in the Amman accord which is regarded as an implementation of the Fes summit resolutions.

Speaking about the future of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement following the failure of U.S. envoy Murphy's mission, al-Hasan said: Since we launched the joint Jordanian-Palestinian move we said from the start that we are launching a political action to confront the U.S.-Israeli plans in the area. We did not delude ourselves into thinking that the battle is going to be short with rapid results. It has now been proved, in the light of the outcome of Murphy's recent visit, that the Amman agreement is precisely formulated and that the Jordanian-Palestinian action is solid to the extent that Murphy and Israel, who have been trying to undermine the Jordanian-Palestinian relations, were faced with a unified Jordanian-Palestinian stand, particularly after the recent Arab summit resolutions.

CSO: 4400/252

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

KUWAITI PAPER DESCRIBES INTERNAL CONFLICT IN FATAH

GF301432 Kuwait AL-GABAS in Arabic 29 Aug 85 p 1

[Text] AL-GABAS has received a critical report that reveals "the dispute of the strong sides" within "fatah." This dispute is among four axes. The first is led by Yasir 'arafat himself, the other is led Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, the third is led by Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, and the fourth axis--which is close to that of 'arafat's--is led by Khalil al-Hasan, alias Abu al-Sa'id.

The report says that every axis adopted a different line on political and military actions. The report adds that the adoption of axes within "fatah" will not lead to rifts. It will only lead to a legitimate dispute to amend some positions. The report says that the dispute revolves around the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, the Palestinian presence in the Lebanese arena, the position toward the United States, and the disputes over 'arafat's succession. The report states that Moscow tried to draw closer the views of the PLO and Syria, and indicates that "abu Iyad" believes that getting away from the Soviet Union constitutes an imbalance and that he is after vivifying "black September." To attain this goal, well-trained groups from "black September" were sent to a number of European countries. They will begin operations when the U.S. meetings with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation reached the red lines, which will be defined by the PLO, for political actions.

The report refers to the conflict over 'arafat's successor as PLO chairman and says that the conflict centers on three persons: Aby Iyad; Abu Jihad; and Abu al-Sa'id. Recently 'arafat started to court the Fatah dissenting military groups. He asked a Palestinian businessman residing in Kuwait to visit Damascus and meet with the political and military dissident leaders, including Sa'id Musa Muragha, alias Abu Musa. On his return, this person informed 'arafat that there is good ground for arriving at an understanding with these figures.

The report reveals the substance of the talks which Abu Iyad held in France and says that in these talks France pledged to protect Palestinian figures and interests, and to supply the PLO with information regarding terrorist parties, chief among which is Mossad, in return for a PLO pledge to supply France with all security information on France that the PLO obtains, and also to refrain from carrying out any operations in French territory.

SAUDI ARABIA

BRIEFS

NEW POWER STATION--Riyadh, 7 Sep (SPA)--'Abd al-'Aziz al-Zamil, minister of industry and electricity and chairman of the board of directors of the Saudi General Electricity Corporation, signed a contract worth 124,108,494 riyals with a specialized international company today, whereby the company will build the central Daba'-Tabuk central power station. The project includes setting up three gas turbines, with a capacity of 14.5 megawatts each; and civil works, which include tanks, roads, buildings, offices, and mechanical work. It will include a fire-extinguishing system, a water and fuel-refinement system, and an air-conditioning works. The company will also build two diesel-generating units, with a 1.8 megawatt capacity each, and gas pressure-raising generators. [Summary] [Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1350 GMT 7 Sep 85 GF]

DONATION TO MALAYSIAN UNIVERSITY--A royal decree was issued approving a Saudi donation of \$1 million to the International Islamic University in Malaysia. [Summary] [Jeddah Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 Sep 85 GF]

ISLAMIC LOAN TO NIGER--Jeddah, 8 Sep (SPA)--A \$2 million agreement was signed in Jeddah today between the Islamic Development Bank and Niger, whereby the Islamic Development Bank will finance a jute import transaction from a bank country member in favor of Niger. [Summary] [Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1755 GMT 8 Sep 85 GF]

DOMESTIC AIRPORTS MAINTENANCE--His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'abd al-'aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and general inspector, signed this morning maintenance agreements for domestic airports with five national companies at an expenditure of 612,673,504 riyals. The agreements cover a period of 3 years, and also call for an additional expenditure of 45 million riyals worth of equipment and miscellaneous items for civil aviation. [Excerpt] [Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Aug 85 GF]

CSO: 4400/252

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

INDUSTRIAL BANK LOANS INCREASED

Beirut AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English 19 Jul 85 pp 5-6

[Text]

The Abu Dhabi-based "Emirates Industrial Bank" (EIB) last year approved 18 loans totaling Dh 97.35mn (US\$26.52mn), according to its annual report for 1984 which has just been released. These results compare favourably with Dh 35 million (US\$9.53mn) granted to 6 projects in 1983, which, however, was not a full year of operation. Loan disbursements, on the other hand, from the start of the bank's actual operation and until the end of 1984, amounted to Dh 78.113mn (US\$21.28mn), or 59 percent of its total loans during the same period.

Since its establishment, the bulk of EIB loans have gone to food and dairy industries which received Dh 63mn or 47 percent of total loans granted. These were followed by the plastics and allied products industries, which received Dh 20mn (US\$5.44mn) or 15 percent of the total, while a single non-ferrous metal products plant came in third rank receiving Dh 14mn (US\$3.81mn). Three building and construction materials plants received loans totalling Dh 12.5mn, or 10 percent of the total.

The EIB was set up to promote UAE industry. Its ultimate aim is to attain wider industrial diversification away from oil, as well as to finance the growth of existing industries by providing equity, working capital and medium and long-term loans on soft terms. The bank lends mainly to technology-intensive and capital-intensive industries, particularly those that depend on local resources and market their products in the UAE. It also lends on second and third priority basis to industries that depend on local resources and market their products both locally and abroad and those that depend on imported raw materials and market their products both locally and abroad.

EIB provides three types of loans:

— Short-term loans, with a duration that does not exceed 2 years and which are intended to provide working capital for industrial establishments;

— Medium-term loans with a duration of not more than 5 years and which are normally granted for the expansion of existing plant or the replacement and renewal of machinery.

But according to EIB Projects Director Dr. Muhammad Abdul Baki, the bulk of these medium-term loans have so far been used to replace commercial loans that were due from industrial establishments when the Bank was set up.

— Long-term loans, with a duration that does not exceed 8 years, and which are used to finance new industrial establishments. These loans carry annual interest of 4 percent, while an additional administration fee of 0.5 percent is charged to loan recipients.

An EIB loan, however, should not exceed 20 percent of the Bank's subscribed capital, including its reserves, or 60 percent of the total cost of the project being financed, whichever is less.

Cumulative Loans Granted by the Emirates Industrial Bank 1983-84 by Line of Industry

Industry	Total Projects	Loan Amount (Dh mn)	Percentage Share of Total
Food	4	48.00	36
Dairy Products	1	15.00	11
Non-ferrous			
Metal Products	1	14.00	11
Building Materials	3	12.50	10
Plastics &			
Allied Products	4	20.00	15
Services	2	7.00	5
Engineering	3	5.25	4
Paint & Varnishes	1	2.50	2
Leather Products	1	2.50	2
Other	4	5.60	4
Total	24	132.35	100

Source: Emirates Industrial Bank, Annual Report 1984.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

WOMAN ASSEMBLY CANDIDATE EXPLAINS AMBITIONS

Sanaa AL-AMAL in Arabic 14 Jul 85 p 2

[Article: "Jamilah al-Kamim to AL-AMAL: I Have Run As a Candidate To Start the First Steps"]

[Text] Jamilah al-Kamim is a name that has been linked with many social activities, through the Yemeni Woman's Society, and is a rising talent in the area of art. She has a number of paintings which have been exhibited on more than one occasion, the most recent of which was during the Yemeni cultural week held in the United States of America.

When she talks to you, you feel that she is serious and firm on the issue of Yemeni women's acquisition of their rights and assertion of their presence in various work areas on grounds that they are no less important and effective than men in building the society.

AL-AMAL met with Jamilah al-Kamim, the candidate for the local cooperative development assembly elections, and held this short conversation with her. We began it with the question on her view regarding the issue of participation by Yemeni women in the elections, and she said:

"I am very happy over women's participation in the elections and the process of running as candidates in the elections. This is a result of some rights which Yemeni women have obtained, and we hope that women will exercise this right boldly and bravely.

"The political leadership has given women some rights, but unfortunately women have not yet had enough boldness to exploit them in the desired manner."

AL-AMAL: How do you explain that?

[Answer] That is, the issue of running as candidates; as long as the door is open, women must start by running as candidates. It is not a condition that they should start by thinking of winning the elections; rather, they must burst into this field and it is not important if they succeed or fail. The important thing is that they initiate a step in this mission. For example if

women run as candidates and even if a large percentage believe in them and give them confidence, it is certain that they cannot receive the desired support and success and be equal with men in everything.

Women themselves will prefer to elect men, but we are trying, God willing, to receive help from you, from the men.

AL-AMAL: Why do you suggest that women cannot achieve success?

[Answer] I say that the ratio of success is minor, very low.

AL-AMAL: If that is a preconception on your part, what are your convictions on running as a candidate?

[Answer] I ran as a candidate in order to start the first steps. If we do not start now that will mean that women's steps in running as candidates will be delayed, perhaps 2 or 6 years, which is the period for candidacy. Let us start now. A large percentage will fail during this period, but a greater percentage will win in the coming period. In reality, I do not expect success, but I will try to run as a candidate, and I hope to win!

AL-AMAL: In the event of your success in the elections?

[Answer] My first concern is to serve my nation and my society in all ways and with all the energy I have been provided. I will serve the nation even before running as a candidate. I have tried often in numerous areas to develop myself and develop my environment in all ways, not just as regards women but also as regards Yemeni people. For example if anyone asks me as an aware human who understands more than him about our society, that is what is a "little" different from my helping him. I will try to seek to acquire a greater amount of rights for the Yemeni citizen.

AL-AMAL: Do you expect that women will be faced with any unpleasantness in participating in entering the elections?

[Answer] Certainly women will face difficulties and unpleasantness. I expect that, even if I run in a well known district and even if the man who is running along with me is my brother for example, and I am more competent than him, the preference will have to be given to him! Why? Because the thinking that prevails is that men are the ones who exert themselves and the ones who are able to work and contact officials and are able to realize gains for the citizens.

Some people have a permanent idea that women are still weak and cannot realize gains or contact officials to demand their rights, because the prevailing view is that women:

Have not obtained their rights, so how can they obtain the rights of others, or the rights of their fellow citizens?

AL-AMAL: What are the means, in your view, for changing this "idea" which holds that women are a weak and deficient element and their place is the home?

[Answer] The responsibility lies on the shoulder of educated women who have become prominent or women who have been elected or appointed to the general people's conference or the municipal councils. Pioneering women are supposed to bear a large share to prove women's existence and ability. If pioneering women cannot obtain their rights, I believe that the course of progress for Yemeni women will be slow!

AL-AMAL: Finally, what would you like to say on this occasion?

[Answer] I consider that these elections as far as women go will be a beginning in which they can be aware of their rights.

It is true that Yemeni women have obtained some political rights, but frankly they have not obtained the rights they ought to obtain, their right to work, their right to a social statute. Women are very unfairly treated by the personal status law. It is true that they have reached the peak of political action, but look at them at work. Their rights to work are very primitive.

When women give birth or are faced with death, their rights are always primitive in this regard.

In addition, in the personal status [law], women are deprived in the event they are divorced, are deprived of their children and their life, and have no rights, even to their homes!

These elections are supposed to be the women's way of obtaining their basic rights; the rule is in the rights!

11887
CSO: 4404/456

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

MUFTI ADVOCATES RESPECT FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Sanaa AL-AMAL in Arabic 14 Jul 85 p 2

[Article: "The Mufti of the Republic, the Scholar Ahmad Zabarah, to AL-AMAL People Who Deprive Women of Their Rights Are Violating Islam"]

[Text] His eminence the scholar and mufti of the republic, al-Qadi Ahmad Zabarah, is an enlightened man of religion who has had a well known fighting career in the face of the tyranny of the imam's fraudulence and clerical regime and in appealing for reform. He is a person who turned toward the ranks of the people and stood up to attack the imamate on the pulpits of the mosques.

When he went to People's China as part of a delegation at the beginning of the sixties, representing Yemen, he told me, before the conversation with him began, that he talked with the Chinese leader Mao Zedong on what China had paved, the new Sanaa highway. He told the Chinese leader that in spite of the length of that road, there was no hospital or hotel in the city of al-Hudaydah. After that the Chinese leader gave his instructions to build the hospital and the hotel.

When the delegation returned, his eminence the scholar Zabarah talked with Imam Ahmad about China's readiness to build the hotel and the hospital, and the imam flew into a rage. This aid was then buried.

AL-AMAL met with him in his home, which is humble like its owner, in order to determine his opinion on the issue of women's participation in and supervision of the elections, and his view on female candidates' exposure to unpleasantness.

This was the response:

In the name of God the most merciful and compassionate, the holy tradition says that women are the sisters of men, and almighty glorious God says that men get a share of what they have earned and women get a share of what they have earned. Men and women, ask God whom he has preferred. Female companions would go out to holy war to treat the sick and bring water. Indeed, some female companions took part and fought some unbelievers. The wives of the

prophet of God, on whom be prayers and peace, were among the greatest of scholars, and men and women would draw wisdom from them. 'A'ishah, may God be content with her, was one of the ones from whom the most traditions were related concerning the prophet of God, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, and his family. Also there were scholars and teachers among the women followers.

The civilized countries made women participate in work with men, because precise work is better done by women than men. Judge and be proficient.

Praise God, we are now here in this part of the Yemeni nation; women are given some of their rights and in the future they will be given more and more.

Women now take part in the elections and in supervision of the elections. In schools many women are teaching, and elegant, polite scholarly girls have graduated from Sanaa University. I taught at Sanaa University in the Faculty of Islamic and Secular Law, and some girls would attend. They gave papers, memorized, benefited and graduated from the university with honor diplomas.

We are now, praise God, at the beginning of the road and we must pass along the road like other Arab and Islamic countries.

Even in Saudi Arabia there are schools for girls in every town and village. We have witnessed this and seen female teachers, female supervisors, and even female doorkeepers.

Girls' education became widespread a long time ago in many Arab and Islamic countries. We emulated this approach after the blessed revolution. Before it, women had no rights. After the revolution women began to have some of their rights, and they must receive the rest of their rights, God willing.

There are girls on Radio Sanaa, some of whom are better than some of the male broadcasters; for example Ummat-al-'Alim Susuah broadcasts the news in English and Arabic proficiently and knowledgeably and there are many besides her in the Yemeni Women's Society, the wife of the great poet of Yemen, 'Abdallah al-Barduni, and many women taking part chastely, properly, politely and morally in life as examples for those who will come after them, God willing.

There is no doubt that we have fanatical people here who are depriving women of their rights, even in the elections, but they are a minority. Predominance lies with the orders of the government and its laws; in the charter and elsewhere, there is the grant of women's rights to women. To me, in my opinion, this is not contradictory to Islam; it is the fanatics who are in violation. However, we have an educated, progressive government and our president, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, is liberal, wise and understanding, as well as the prime minister, 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, and other intellectuals and scholars who have been held in esteem with respect to religion and the world. A country which is deprived of the culture of women and their benefit to the people is paralyzed. Half the people are paralyzed, because women are half the people and men are the other half.

If the two halves join ranks, they will have a great resurgence, because it is said that men are the rough sex and that women are the gentle sex. If the rough and the gentle cooperate, much will result from them. Almighty glorious God created men and women; the almighty said "and what created men and women," in addition to many verses. This is the law of existence; there must be men and women, and there is intelligence, understanding and perception in each of them. We have said that perception and understanding is more accurate than men's regarding many things, especially regarding certain activities such as sewing and fine manual work. Women are like a shadow over men, in accounting and toward them.

I counsel that our country proceed like others; backwardness is not permissible for us; we have been very backward in the past, and now, by God's grace, we are proceeding in broad steps, praise be to God, lord of the two worlds, and may God's prayers and peace be on our master Muhammad and his family.

11887
CSO: 4404/456

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

AGRICULTURAL EXPERT CALLS FOR GOVERNMENT AID TO FARMING

Sanaa AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 22 Jul 85 pp 8, 10

[Article by Salih 'Abdallah Hamzah: "The Decline of Agricultural Production in Yemen: To Achieve an Advanced Agricultural Processing Industry"]

[Text] If we look at our agricultural situation, we will find that it is backward. If we look at the factor of agricultural development, not to speak of agricultural resources or comprehensive agricultural resurgence:

We will find that development and resources, or sound agricultural resurgence, lie in two important things, or, more correctly, two main angles, which are:

1. A comprehensive agricultural resurgence which is striving to increase the productivity of foodstuffs as an alternative to imports of grain, meat and so forth.
2. Economic development striving to increase the productivity of main export commodities such as cotton, coffee and perhaps potatoes, onions and so forth.

Before I venture into the discussion, through these lines, speaking for the sake of the truth about the positive activities the General Practical and Scientific Agricultural Research Organization, the Southern Highlands Project and other development projects are carrying out, and the effective victories they have realized, and will realize, with valuable output and permanent sacrifices in providing agricultural services and accessories in the form of improved seeds, fertilizers and plant pesticides and herbicides, through scientific recommendations and technical advice bearing on modern technology, that is, through the pursuit of modern agricultural means and methods on behalf of our brothers the agricultural peasant masses throughout the republic's governorates regarding things whose cultivation is in keeping with the environmental and climatic circumstances of every region and each of our fertile agricultural valleys, and the other Ministry of Agriculture and Fish Resources projects they are carrying out, I am happy, here, to set forth a point of introduction concerning agricultural development in our country, since agriculture is considered the country's backbone and

represents the focal point of the domestic and national economy of Arabia Felix.

This is how development began to proceed along its rocky road full of thorns and fortresses built of iron and steel.

A. Sound productive agricultural development is our road to the attainment of self-sufficiency:

[This is] because the basis of agricultural development is practical, and scientific agricultural research and economic development -- not to say agricultural resources or more correctly comprehensive agricultural resurgence -- have today become among the major issues of the current era, connected firmly with developing countries and countries where development is weak. Development, or agricultural resources and comprehensive agricultural resurgence in our generous, self-sacrificing land with its fertility, diverse in its precious climates famous for their glory and creative self-sacrifice, the land of the two paradises, the Yemen Arab Republic, represents the most pressing central issue in this period of the life of the struggling, fighting Yemeni people. After long years of economic stagnation and social paralysis which the country suffered from, because of colonial and chauvinistic dominance over the keys to affairs in the country, revolution was necessary for this august society, which was deep-rooted in its civilization and played an effective role in developed life for many years before its civilization was afflicted with deterioration.

It feels, consciously or unconsciously, a preoccupation with matters which have alienated it from the course of developments in which it once was dominant. Relations that are founded on the basis of production and labor are no longer the common denominator among the members of the society, nor is the growing consciousness which played an influential role in Arab Islamic and human cultural life, which has regressed to represent a fearful facade of culture as a result of service to the regime and dominant minds. In this manner, our revolutionary society lived through a long, bitter state of withdrawal which caused it to lose many of the notions and characteristics which had distinguished it throughout its long history, within the limits and circumstances involved, whose effects still remain. In spite of all the manifestations of stagnation and paralysis which linked the society to their bondage, there were the elements of resistance and rejection to these pathological phenomena, and these were the revolution of September 1962, which was the historic culmination of the Yemeni society's movement of revolutionary, national people's struggle in its rejection of the elements of alignment and regression. The eternal, triumphant revolution of 26 September 1962 represented not only the historic culmination of the struggle of the Yemeni people but indeed the most advanced transition stage in its life on all levels.

While this most advanced transition stage faced many difficulties which were embodied in the domestic and foreign obstacles which united and worked to bring down the course of development in Yemeni society and its life and the will, revolution and insistence of the fighting struggling Yemeni people to achieve the goals of their immortal revolution in creating the new Yemeni

man and society which struggled to realize the humanity of man in this part of the world, the obstacles, in spite of their numerousness, did not manage to realize their goals, and they continued to keep up with their combative course. The Yemeni people, through their perseverant revolutionary will, managed to realize many national and revolutionary achievements in various economic, social and cultural areas and to some extent in agricultural development, according to the field experiments and scientific and practical laboratory examinations research came up with on various field, orchard and fruit crops.

During the years of confrontation, characterized by the severe, most complicated struggle between the forces of progress and the forces of backwardness, the society managed to cover a stretch of development and its revolutionary course. During years of development which have elapsed, specifically since 1962, the course of development has been founded on the basis of spontaneous, haphazard development in the context of economic, social and political circumstances which basically made preparations so that this sort of development would dominate economic and social conditions, so that this type led to a pattern of development which did not directly affect the life of the society toward the improvement of its living conditions and the provision of its stable national self-sufficiency in food by working to increase its productive capabilities and powers and respond to its increasing essential and consumer requirements.

B. The quality of this development resulted in leading the economy to shift from one state to another which infringed on some people through what it produced and afflicted some people directly with its results in a manner which affected their life not in a better direction, but rather by alerting it with a warning bell. It was necessary by the nature of the emphases placed on this pattern of development that a review be made of its activities and operations so that the development, the development which it needed, would prevail, so that it would be a servant of the society, not its oppressor. Thinking about planning and programming began in a gradual manner. The early signs of the thinking were the emergence of the 3-year development program, which was not so much in effect a comprehensive socioeconomic plan whose goal was to develop the society and put it on a sound road so that it could over a short distance transcend the conditions of the terrifying, horrible trinity embodied in ignorance, poverty and disease as it was just a beginning in order to draw people's attention toward interest in the agricultural sector and agricultural research, on grounds that that was the sole major sector, on which more than 90 percent of the population depended.

And in which more than 70 percent of the force that is able to work in productive agricultural fields works, and also on grounds that it is the only major sector, contributes the highest percentage of national income and the country's exports depend on it.

C. In spite of the strategic goals which the 3-year development program 1972-75 defined and the quantity of investments allocated to this sector on which the 3-year program embarked, the results were not encouraging. This can be attributed basically to the lack of capital invested in this sector and elsewhere. Indeed, it can be attributed basically to the absence of a

clear understanding of the forces whose responsibility it is to realize the 3-year development program and invest in this sector, resulting from a lack of qualified capable trained persons grasping the goals and importance of the goals of the program. One cannot, in the case of people who are ignorant of the nature of their jobs, aim at getting them to realize goals which have been sketched out before them when they do not know anything about these goals. This was the main reason for the uneven results of the 3-year development program. Alongside this, there were domestic and foreign factors which in various specific degrees helped prevent the attainment of the goals which had been sketched out, in spite of their modest nature, including the characteristics of the social and economic conditions of the society which contributed directly to the failure to attain the goals which had been sketched out for the issue of development specified in the 3-year development program. However, in spite of all the results the program provided, it was necessary that it constitute the first base in the direction of implanting the notions of comprehensive socioeconomic development of the society, through carefully-studied scientific planning. The first 5-year development plan came on the groundwork of the 3-year development plan, for instance, deficiencies in statistics and surveys, the matter of whose existence constitutes a basic need which must be met in practice for the sake of development.

In addition, it was reckoned that the negative results which the applications of the 3-year development program brought to the fore would be transcended in the first 5-year plan, 1976-81, but there was a conception which continued to be common to the 3-year program and the first 5-year development plan.

This conception was the status of the agricultural sector in terms of importance. In the 3-year development program, it occupied third place, and in the first 5-year plan it occupied the same position, as well as in the second 5-year plan. One should bear in mind that the agricultural sector is one of the most important basic sectors in the improvement and development of the domestic economy, since before relying on the agricultural sector it was necessary to give it maximum priority in the second 5-year plan, as a result of which it would have been possible to say that Yemeni society had actually entered the true comprehensive stage of agricultural development.

We do not wish to enter into details on the rural development process, because there will be an article on that when I come back to talk about the acts and achievements of the General Agricultural Research Authority and the integrated rural development projects and their services in improving and developing the level of agricultural productivity and raising the development and improvement of the standard of living of the rural family, and about the yield of Ministry of Agriculture and Fish Resources projects through development projects in the southern, north central and coastal highlands, the Tihamah Plain and elsewhere, on grounds that that is distinct from the issue of agricultural resources or comprehensive agricultural resurgence and comprehensive socioeconomic development, which are another subject. However, we view rural development through the limited development goals and strategies of the agricultural sector, on grounds that rural development is only a part of the comprehensive development subject which is

limited to the plan, and is not separate, but is connected to the comprehensive national development plan.

Although there have been carefully studied theoretical attempts or attempts influenced by some theoretical ideas which seek to separate rural from urban areas, in terms of development -- a serious matter and one which could harm the development plans and inflict some harm on them if they are relied on -- the rural areas, and their issues, are a subject which is not separate from that of development and the nature of its function in society.

How can we today view the Yemeni rural areas, while they have gone beyond their stagnant conditions toward development and progress, through a strong, accurate connection with the comprehensive development of society?

The rural areas are the focus of comprehensive agricultural development strategy:

The 3-year development program, 1972-75, has defined goals related to the agricultural sector as a major sector in the domestic economy. The goals of the program single out goals related to the development of the rural areas. The first 5-year plan, 1976-81, also spelled out specific goals for the agricultural sector, in detail, embracing the conditions and level of this important vital sector while giving attention of a sort to rural areas. Where, however, does the developmental importance of the rural areas lie in both the 3-year development program and the first 5-year plan, and the beginning of the second 5-year plan?

They lie in the need to work to link the rural areas to the towns through a system of roads, to transcend the state of isolation, to improve the conditions of the inhabitants in the rural areas and other goals. These are tasks which are not rising to the level of the tasks of development in the rural areas, bearing in mind that one must not view the matter separately or in isolation from the other economic and social activities which are the object of the development plan. Until recently, the Yemeni rural areas continued to live in deprivation of the most minor service facilities related to inhabited life. Plagues were widespread, diseases were endemic, the water supply was not drinkable, most of it carried a number of diseases, the housing was not suitable, culture was lacking, agricultural ownership was not defined, social production relations were unfair and tyrannical, and in general conditions of extreme wretchedness dominated life in the rural areas.

Until recently, their life continued to be the prisoner of indigence and the shadow of ignorance and isolation, and no attention was directed toward them in order to move them out of these wretched conditions of theirs, concomitant with people's initiatives through private societies and cooperatives, as a response to the necessities of life, which the logic of development and the nature of the social change Yemeni society had witnessed during the years of the immortal September revolution had imposed, so that these initiatives would constitute the start of interest in the rural areas, which were dominated by two contradictory ways of thinking, that of accepting the stagnant state which prevailed and that of rejecting it. The latter view won and the cooperative movement, as embodied in the development authorities

which assumed for themselves the slogan of war against backwardness, arose, to pave the way for action and change in the social life of the inhabitants of the rural areas and improvement in the conditions of their inhabitants. Roads, which are considered the blood vessels of life, were started and the citizen started to obtain his requirements, or more correctly the requirements of his life, with the ease in circulating between the capitals, that is, the main towns, and the rural areas.

Means of communication were quickly provided. Here is where the role of the agricultural sector and the importance of agricultural research in introducing modern technology into comprehensive integrated rural development comes in. Through the presence of roads, the agricultural sector can offer its special agricultural services by increasing and improving agricultural productivity through the introduction of improved seeds whose cultivation is suited to environmental and climatic circumstances, methods of insecticide through toxic pesticides, methods of using chemical fertilizers and transmission of the application of the the positive results practical and scientific research have attained to various field and orchard crops and fruit with the most modern agricultural technical means and methods, by means of the men of social change, the agricultural guidance agency which is to be considered the link between the Agricultural Research Authority and its laboratories, scientific workshops, practical fields and fields for the actual application of production among the agricultural peasant masses. If in our discussion, through these lines, we work our way toward an acquaintance with the activities of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fish Resources, as embodied in the General Scientific Research Authority, the rural development projects and the Tihamah Development Authority, we will find that the achievements which have been realized since the beginning of the 3-year development program and the stage of the first 5-year plan and the beginning, not to say the stage of the second 5-year plan, which has given the agricultural sector 5 percent of total government income (a most mediocre and lowly figure because of the importance of the agricultural sector) -- we will find that most of the projects have transcended the figures sketched out for them in the program. Had we had an agricultural revolution or comprehensive agricultural resurgence, we would indeed have realized the greatest achievement and most massive triumph in the attainment of self-sufficiency and security in food during this period!

Animal resources are a feature that is supplementary to plant resources. Therefore, it is necessary to devote attention to them.

In view of the extreme importance and undeniable necessity livestock resources possess, livestock resources in the Arabia Felix of Sheba have suffered greatly from deterioration and have been afflicted by many numerous endemic and contagious diseases, the most grievously harmful and destructive of which to them is the disease of anthrax, which results in the death of much cattle because of its speed in spreading. In addition, sheep and goats have been afflicted by smallpox and mange, which result in the farmer's loss of numerous flocks, while no veterinary prevention or treatment exists for such phenomena, a matter which has led to the gradual destruction, collapse and disappearance of livestock resources from most rural villages in my beloved country, in addition to periodic drought and a lack of free pasture, which

has prompted the government of the revolution, as represented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fish Resources, to strive earnestly and work to correct the conditions and the severity of the state of collapse of animal resources. In fact the ministry has started to work to absorb investment reserves to bring about a comprehensive development program, in spite of its modest size, and the search has been initiated for a resolution to many negative phenomena which dominated the various aspects of the issues of comprehensive agricultural development and development programs. That is an essential, inescapable matter as an objective conclusion brought forth by theoretical and scientific conceptions concerning incorrect approaches to development, the absence of a clear policy and obscurity in the goals and standards sketched out for it. The ministry has in fact started to work on the need to create numerous livestock resource projects and to work on the need to create branch departments in rural development and Tihama Development Authority projects, since the veterinary departments in these projects are now performing a great, important role in the course of combatting the disease which afflict cattle and sheep in the region, with the goal of providing happiness for our brothers the agricultural peasant masses and making them engage in farming the land and raising livestock for the purpose of realizing comprehensive agricultural development.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fish Resources has sought to create mobile veterinary hospitals but these hospitals have not performed their jobs and duties in the desired, needed manner. They move out to rural areas only when disease has destroyed most of the livestock, although they function as soon as these diseases appear and spread. These hospitals must carry out periodic activities in the rural society to inoculate livestock before the appearance of any contamination in any area whatever. The objective in that is to protect these livestock resources in their development and protect them to cover the country's needs in the present and future for its essential daily milk and meat nutrition requirements.

Slaughterhouses and protection of people from communicable and contagious diseases:

Since there has been environmental protection from endemic, communicable and contagious diseases in animals to man through the consumption of contaminated meat, I mean, the eating of meat of animals afflicted by diseases, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fish Resources has embraced this subject and given it maximum attention. The livestock resources project and its branches represented by veterinary centers and veterinaries are carrying out the activities of inspecting slaughterhouses and examining cattle, sheep and goats before their slaughter to ascertain their health condition and freedom from diseases.

While the goal of the livestock revolution or the comprehensive agricultural resurgence to be established is man and man's happiness, through the satisfaction of his constantly increasing needs, this goal has faced many elements of decline in many growing and mediocrely-developed projects, since individual thinking has proliferated and rural development has been subjected to various notions and conceptions which have alienated it from its basic goal. All this has led to the emergence of many phenomena, such as

erratic performance in the disbursement of the money due in full to certain projects and also in the provision of financing necessary for many projects, neglect and inadequacy on the part of some of them and the appearance of aspects of general shortcomings in intellectual and legislative views and general policy.

And in the daily administration of this policy, which governs the course of development. Haphazard phenomena have also become prominent in surveys and tables.

The lack of ability has engendered a lack of clarity regarding the strategy on which agricultural development is founded, since it is inconceivable that a agricultural revolution or comprehensive agricultural resurgence could come about spontaneously; indeed, it can come about if reliance in establishing it and declaring it as a green agricultural revolution in its operation is based on planning as a condition prior to its declaration.

The planning which is meant here is not the type of partial planning which one can adopt to confront a situation from which certain conditions in the society are suffering, be they agricultural, economic, social or cultural. Rather, it is that integrated comprehensive planning on whose basis various general statements are adopted, and not just coordination among policies which have in fact already been adopted.

It is in general to be assumed that it is not expected that an agricultural revolution will come about by chance or that a comprehensive agricultural resurgence will take place unless planning constitutes its approach to development, as a natural outcome of the process of agricultural revolution or the establishment of a comprehensive agricultural resurgence, and the essence and goal of its objective, manifesting itself not through the attainment of a higher level of individual income, which enters into the heart of development programs as one of their major points of departure, but in the essence of the function of the agricultural revolution which is determined through the attainment of a rapid, accumulating, permanent increase in real individual income over an extended period of time creating an accurate, strong balance on all levels among the areas of comprehensive agricultural resurgence, indeed taking them all at all their levels. Therefore, the adoption of comprehensive planning has occurred as a basis and point of departure on which the processes of holding the agricultural revolution or realizing a comprehensive agricultural resurgence and a developed economic resurgence can be arranged. This is its nature in the process of agricultural development in haphazard form. Haphazardness in growth means the continued distortion of economic activities for the realization of balanced growth. This intervention takes place by the government, represented by the Higher Council of Agriculture, which alone is able to set out a strategy for the performance of a comprehensive agricultural resurgence or declare a green agricultural revolution which it will of necessity translate into policies, policies which will be transformed into programs and plans.

There is no development without planning and no planning without statistics.

From the foregoing, the formation of cells to announce the agricultural revolution or establish a comprehensive agricultural resurgence in the effort

to develop the Yemeni countryside and improve the living conditions of the agricultural peasant masses in the countryside, is considered the elimination of the comprehensive agricultural development strategy. We find that the planning and programming process has become one of the major important issues in the process of distributing projects and meeting the requirements of the masses. The fact is that there is no development without planning, and no planning without statistics, since it is difficult for the government to adopt planning for agricultural projects or for a comprehensive agricultural resurgence to take place whose magnitude and type are unknown as far as the requirements of the nature and circumstances of the region go. It might devote great attention and generous support to a project while the volume of this project is not in keeping with such attention. The volume of the project might be very small or its services might be restricted to a specific thing or the provision of a specific service, contrary to the attention and provision of necessary adequate support to a large-volume project with the numerous services and tasks it carries out.

The compilation of statistics has become an important technique in their surveys and statistics because it involves the language of dealing with figures. When it is involved with the figures which will work to help it establish a comprehensive agricultural resurgence or declare a green agricultural revolution in improving and developing the level of productivity of the members of society in the rural areas, the government, by knowing supply and demand, can apportion the necessary development and service projects equitably and equally among all rural areas and regions throughout the area of Yemen -- sound, accurate planning to build and form major development projects with creative yields and effective output.

Since we, through the abovementioned, are carrying out the process of haphazard planning and spontaneous compilation of statistics, the form of the results has become conspicuous through the absence of sound planning and accurate statistical compilation.

Because of this, the national cooperative political leadership and the government of the democratic revolution have come to pursue a new development policy, benefitting from the past errors and negative features which have occurred, and have started to establish sound means and follow the upright platform of sound planning and accurate compilation of statistics to build real development projects in an attempt to rise above past errors and negative conditions, with the purpose of attaining positive conditions. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fish Resources, which is considered the backbone of the country and represents the focus of our Yemeni people's national and domestic economy, [verb missing] after it had been stagnant for a period of time due to the lack of interest on the part of its leading, legislative and executive powers for many reasons, including the absence of political stability and the absence of stability in the ministry in the past, since new cabinets would be formed from time to time, to the point where the agricultural sector remained totally isolated, until the beginning of the development stage and the first 5-year plan, to which it gave attention by giving it 5 percent of the total government income -- a figure which was not sufficient for the requirements of the employees of the ministry, let alone the provision of services. However, there are loans and grants in aid

accompanied by foreign experts and expertise with fantastic incomes and salaries, and mediocrity and neglect in local earnings and personnel and numerous problems. In spite of all that, the agricultural sector indeed received domestic personnel in the next to last cabinet formation during the development stage and the latest formation during the first and second 5-year plan stage. Indeed, there are experts who have realized many achievements, drawn up many plans and also prepared many programs, and let us not forget their role and what the fingerprints of the people who have borne the responsibility for this vital, important sector have sketched out. These are the sincere personnel whom I have observed working silently, who have realized many achievements and worked on the need to create a special project for accurate statistics on agriculture and field surveys in order to set out sound studies and real figures in the light of which the development or comprehensive agricultural resurgence it is desired to establish will be managed in sound ways, through planning to declare agricultural advances or to establish productive projects.

Thanks to the sincere efforts which are carrying out a number of development projects for the agricultural sector in the comprehensive agricultural development process in developing the rural areas and bringing the revolution to them, after they had lived in isolation, these projects have been crowned by the laying of the cornerstone for the construction of the great Ma'rib dam, the land of the two paradises. The most important Ministry of Agriculture and Fish Resources project is the General Agricultural Research Authority, which carries out research experiments:

Projects of modern technology which are the offspring of scientific research and various scientific and practical experiments on field and orchard crops and fruit, and protection, I mean the protection of plants from contamination by diseases and insect pests, in addition to study of the soil and the knowledge of its fertility and vigor.

The performance of work to analyze water chemically and physically. There is water which is suitable for irrigation but not for humans or animals, and there is water which is not suited for drinking or for agriculture. Then there are the other activities and tasks of the General Scientific Research Authority, such as acquiring improved agricultural strains with high productivity and economic yield.

Second, the Southern Highlands rural development project and the other rural development projects.

It is transmits the results of modern technology in the Agricultural Research Authority to the actual fields of application by means of the Agricultural Guidance Agency; in addition it performs and participates in the drilling of wells, the construction of reservoirs and the laying of pipe systems to the scattered rural villages in order to provide them with clean drinking water. The Agricultural Cooperative Lending Bank supplies our brother farmers and peasants with the necessary loans to buy plows and agricultural production accessories. These loans may be broken down into two categories, short-term and long-term loans. These loans must be paid in instalments, I mean through the collateral of the crop.

Third, the project to propagate improved seeds:

This project carries out the process of taking the improved strains the General Agricultural Research Authority has come up with and seeks to propagate them and circulate their cultivation in all the farmlands in the possession of our brothers the agricultural peasant masses.

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CSO: 4404/454

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

BRIEFS

WOMEN IN ELECTIONS--During the meeting which took place between our brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the delegation of the Journalists' Union and representatives of the local press to give congratulations on the success of the experiment of the elections to expand the General People's conference and the local councils for cooperative development, we learned that about five women won in the elections. This small figure is to be considered a large victory, if it is viewed in the light of the heavy social legacy and the traditions and customs our people inherited, which have ruled out women's participation in public life from distant times. This figure is to be considered one of the real accomplishments of the 26 September revolution, and the future will witness a constant increase in women's participation in public life and the exercise of their democratic rights as citizens who have the rights and obligations of citizens. It has been said that the highest level of women's participation in the elections was in al-Hudaydah Governorate; this calls for the promotion of further force in the coming election season for the sake of increasing their participation in the other governorates of the republic, since the women of the Governorate of al-Hudaydah have been effective elements in the proper choice of people to represent the citizens. Salutations to Yemeni women, voters and candidates. [Text] [Sanaa AL-AMAL in Arabic 4 Aug 85 p 8]

CSO: 4404/456

AFGHANISTAN

VAST EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES CONTINUE

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 10 Aug 85 pp 1-2

[Text] Kabul, (BIA)--More than 650 thousand students were enrolled in the primary, secondary and higher educational establishments of Afghanistan during the Afghan year [year indistinct] (ended March 20, 1985).

At present, there are more than 1100 educational establishments running throughout the country.

During the educational year 1984-1985, more than 70,000 children were registered in the first grades and more than 21,000 students in the nine grades. In comparison, to the previous year, it shows an increase of 45 and 19 per cents respectively, stated a source of the Ministry of Education.

Despite the difficulties created by the imperialist and reactionary forces since the very beginning of the April Revolution till now a total of 80 primary and 28 secondary schools were established during the post-revolutionary years. During the same period, moreover, more than 350 educational construction projects were opened and over 250 schools, destroyed by the bandits, were restored and began functioning.

Great steps have also been taken each year to replace the obsolete system with the new one. In this respect, taking into account the economic condition of the country, the secondary educational period was changed from 12 to 11 years, with the increase of the educational curricula, the source added.

The new system provides educational facilities on an equal footing for all the residents of the country without any discrimination on the basis of race, language, sex, religion, social status, etc.

In line with the new system, textbooks and other materials have been published in the languages of all the nationalities of the country mainly in Pashto, Dari, Uzbeki, Turkmeni and Baluchi.

The textbooks and Curriculum Department of the Ministry of Education, on the basis of the changes introduced by the modern teaching system revised the old editions of textbooks intended for grades ranging from 6 to 12. The revised textbooks carrying more than 105 topics have been published with a circulation of four and a half million copies. This in itself demonstrates the development achieved in the sphere of education with the realization of the new educational system in the DRA, the source concluded.

AFGHANISTAN

TRAINED YOUTH PROVIDE HEALTH SERVICES TO CITIZENS

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 11 Aug 85 p 4

[Text] The Central Committee of the Democratic Youth Organisation of Afghanistan, in order to provide the people with better health services and based on the motto "Health for All" as well as in honour of the 12th World Festival of Youth and Students, has set up a health brigade.

The incharge of the social order brigades of the DYOA CC explaining the activities and work of the brigades, said:

"In the current year, on the basis of the directives issued by the Council of Ministers of the DPA and the Executive Bureau of the DYOA CC, it is planned to select 1,200 boys and girls from among best representatives of our youth and train them for carrying out different social duties. These brigades include also a health brigade which is composed of 350 boys and girls. Members of the brigades attended 21-day courses held at all 11 city precincts of Kabul for this purpose and now are ready to serve compatriots. For training the members of the brigade the Public Health Ministry, Afghan Red Crescent, Society (ARCS) the World Health Organisation (WHO) have provided necessary conditions.

"The members of the health brigades will be assigned to the hospitals and health centres. During the course of training they will be paid Afs 1,050 as a stipend.

"The probationary period of the brigade was started on August 5 and will last for a week at the mother and child care polyclinics, ARCS clinics, and hospitals of Kabul city. They will learn in practice how to make injections and artificial respiration, dress a wound, and other first-aid technics.

"After completing the training course, the brigade will receive certificates, health cards, first-aid kits and salary. The health brigade of Kabul city will have the duty to help the needy people in case of emergency at their residential areas, working sites, educational institutions as well as to carry out necessary publicity work. Their services will be free of charge to the people. It is planned to mobilize another 800 persons in the provinces. They will start their activities after assessing the density of population in each particular province and other specifications. Members of these brigades will be assigned to health services after receiving necessary theoretical and practical training.

AFGHANISTAN

TALC DEPOSITS TO BE EXPLORED

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 14 Aug 85 p 4

[Text] Talc deposits have long been known to exist in many of the south eastern regions of Afghanistan. The word talc in its broader definition is an inclusive term, covering all gradations ranging from the pure mineral to impure, massive talcose rocks (soapstone) that many contain as little as 50 percent of the mineral talc. Its price in the world markets is constantly rising, most frequently due to its quality and growing industrial uses. Detailed studies of the talc deposits in Afghanistan undertaken not earlier than a decade or so ago. A large-scale geological mapping and exploratory work carried out by the Department of Minerals and Geological Survey of Afghanistan have so far, resulted in the discovery of a number of minor and major talc deposits in addition to the already known ore reserves in the country.

Relatively large known ore bodies forming about 90 per cent of the known ore reserves occur in Nangarhar, an eastern province of the DRA.

The province is also famous for its asbestos, serpentine and rare minerals. Nangarhar talc reserves which are predominantly concentrated in Achin village, about 60-70 km south west of Jalalabad city and in Mamakhil village of that city at relatively high elevations are certainly of high economic values. Detailed geological studies made by the Department of Minerals and Geological Survey of Afghanistan have indicated that the mineral bearing zones occur in massive forms of over 150 kilometers long and from 0.5 to 16 meters thick. Preliminary estimates show that the talc reserves in these villages alone exceed hundreds of thousands of tons.

This fact indicates that the perspective reserves of the mineral talc will be much higher. Therefore, an additional detailed exploratory programme of work in that province has been considered by the Geological and Minerals Department as another important and necessary step to be taken towards further developing the existing ore reserves for the future. This will also pave the way for exploring the possibilities for locating additional ore deposits in the surrounding areas along the ore bearing zones.

A decade or so ago talc mining in Afghanistan was being carried out by the local people in a most primitive way. Only a few years back open-pit and underground mining was undertaken by the Ministry of Mines and Industries which enabled the country to become self sufficient in some minor local industries.

The Exploitation of the talc mineral was being implemented simultaneously with the exploration and developmental work.

Afghan talc or soapstone is snow white in color and has most of the fine qualities, such as extreme softness, nice lustre, chemical inertness etc., making it most desirable for a wide variety of purposes in industry.

Laboratory studies of Afghan talc carried out at home and abroad have indicated that the properties of the mineral slightly differ from one deposit to another in that province, depending largely, upon the conditions of its formation and the nature of its mother rocks. Nevertheless, analyses of Achin and Mamakhel talc deposits as well as some other minor deposits in those regions showed more or less similar and common properties which make them most suitable for manufacture in such industries as ceramics, refractories, paints, pharmaceuticals, roofing materials, Crayons, textiles and so forth.

However, there is a need for additional research to find new uses for the plentiful grades of Afghan talc, to lower mining costs aimed at improving its quality. The long term supply outlook for talc to world markets should be considered for the future.

CSO: 4600/621

INDIA

ARMY ESTABLISHES CAMP TO REFORM SIKH DESERTERS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 Aug 85 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, August 18--The army has taken the unprecedented step of trying to reform the Sikh soldiers who had deserted in the wake of Operation Bluestar but whose culpability was found to be of a minor nature.

Two reformatories have been set up, one at Thirumalgiri and another at Golconda, both near Hyderabad. Army personnel numbering 517 who have been sentenced to rigorous imprisonment of less than 18 months without dismissal or discharge have been sent to these reformatories.

The objective is to train and educate them so that by the time they are released from the reformatories they are fit to be posted to units within the army and serve the balance of their terms as a loyal soldier.

Thus obviously the Sikh army deserters are the recipient of sympathy and consideration. Of a total of 1,478 deserters who have been tried and given minor punishment, 900 have been rehabilitated within the army and 237 will soon be absorbed in the defence security corps.

Those who have been sent to reformatories will be assessed for their suitability of retention at the conclusion of their terms of imprisonment.

A total of 50 persons were tried by courts martial and sentence to varying terms of imprisonment ranging from one to 14 years' R.I. and dismissed from the army. One was given life imprisonment. Three were found not guilty.

A total of 2,733 Sikh soldiers were reported to have deserted their units.

PTI adds: During engagements with other troops and the police, a total of 67 were killed and 30 were missing presumably having found that way back to their homes.

The extent of culpability was also assessed by the courts of inquiry. The mode of disciplinary action was dependent on the extent of culpability. This was re-assessed by holding summaries of evidence in accordance with military law, a defence ministry statement said.

It said the army had its own legal procedures to deal with disciplinary cases.

The Army Act contains elaborate provisions such as inquiries at the initial stages, arrest, detention, trial, execution of sentences, appeal against sentences, parole, pardon, remission, reprieve and annulment of proceedings, it said.

CSO: 4600/1681

INDIA

CPI-M LEADER ADDRESSES LETTER TO KERALA CONGRESS-I

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 Aug 85 p 9

[Text] Trivandrum, August 18--The "open letter to Congressmen of Kerala" from the CPM general secretary, Mr E.M.S. Namboodiripad, is seen in Congress circles as part of a bid to make the maximum capital out of the exit of the All-India Muslim League (AIML) from the Left Democratic Front.

According to them, the Marxist leader is trying to project the Left Front as a combination of truly secular parties following the departure of AIML. This is in sharp contrast to the picture he draws of the ruling United Democratic Front as a rag-tag combination fashioned by the state Congress leadership in co-operation with small parties representing communal and other narrow interests.

In the letter published in the party daily "Deshabhiman," on Wednesday last, Mr Namboodiripad urges Congressmen to seriously consider whether their party leadership's policy of "forging an alliance with anyone for the sake of power" is in the interest of the country or of their own party.

Congress circles view the self-examination plea as no more than an attempt to create confusion among the party's rank and file.

As the CPM leader himself notes, the plea is based on indications that a section of Congressmen is far from happy about the "policy of appeasement" of communal and such other elements pursued by the leadership. In this context, he refers to the slogan of "one-party" rule, raised by Youth Congress leaders.

Mr Namboodiripad, whose party has launched an intensive campaign for changes in the "shariat" (Muslim personal law), is also aware that a section of Congressmen share the Marxists' sentiments in this regard. He devotes a major portion of the letter to the issue referring, among other things, to the factors which prompted the framers of the constitution to provide for uniform civil code.

He refers to the demand voiced in the Lok Sabha by the Indian Union Muslim leaders, Mr Ibrahim Sulaiman Sait and Mr G.M. Banatwala, for abolition of

article 44 of the constitution (providing for a uniform civil code). He also recalls the remarks allegedly made by Mr Sait during his Pakistan visit about the "plight" of Muslims in the country.

Poll Strategy

He reminds congressmen that it was "short-term electoral considerations" which prompted the Congress leadership to back these two leaders in the Lok Sabha poll.

Referring to the Congress alliance with parties like the Kerala Congress, the National Democratic Party and the Socialist Republican Party, the CPM leader asks: "is it in league with all these (parties) that your party leadership plans to prepare for the leap into the 21st century promised by Mr Rajiv Gandhi?"

There has been no reply so far from the Congress to Mr Namboodiripad's letter. Indeed, some of the points raised by him, like the Congress' passive stand on the "shariat" issue and the problems arising from alliance with regional parties have been causing concern to a section of partymen.

CSO: 4600/1681

INDIA

PAPERS REPORT ON BASU MOSCOW VISIT PLANS

Cautioned by Center

New Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 15 Aug 85 p 5

[Text] Calcutta, Aug 14--West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu has been firmly told by the Central Government not to accept foreign hospitality during his coming visit to the USSR.

Mr Basu is expected to leave for Moscow on Aug 19 and stay in the USSR for about 10 days. He is part of a CPI-M politburo team going to hold party-to-party talks with the Soviet Communist Party. CPI-M general secretary E.M.S. Namboodiripad is also a member of the team.

West Bengal Government circles explained away New Delhi's enjoinder as a routine procedure, since protocol demands that any person holding the rank of a Minister either in the Central Government or in a State Government represents the Indian Republic while on foreign soil. However, the interesting aspect of the enjoinder is that it has been used for the first time in Mr Basu's case.

The enjoinder may also create a slight complication as far as the CPI-M delegation is concerned. While all other members will be enjoying the hospitality extended by the Soviet party, Mr Basu's expenses will be borne by his Government or personally by him.

Visit Plans Cancelled

Madras THE HINDU in English 19 Aug 85 p 7

[Text] Calcutta, Aug 18--The West Bengal Chief Minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, now in Delhi, has cancelled his proposed visit to Moscow and is returning here on August 19 after the CPI(M) Central committee meeting there.

Mr Basu will preside over a Cabinet meeting on August 20 to discuss the Assam accord and its possible implications for West Bengal.

The Chief Minister was scheduled to fly to Moscow on August 19 and return before the end of the month. But he decided to cancel the trip after studying the programme in Delhi according to which he would not be able to return before September 2. Mr Basu did not want to keep away from West Bengal for that long a time, according to the Chief Secretary, Mr S.V. Krishnan.--PTI

CSO: 4600/1690

INDIA

PUNJAB ELECTION DECISION 'A CALCULATED RISK'

Madras THE HINDU in English 18 Aug 85 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Aug. 17.

The Centre today decided to have early elections in Punjab for the Legislative Assembly as well as the vacant Lok Sabha seats without prolonging the present political vacuum by extending President's rule through another amendment of the Constitution.

The State will now go to the polls on September 22 and a popular Government will be formed well in time before the expiry of the President's rule on October 5 under the existing constitutional provision.

The Election Commission announced tonight that the notification for both the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections will be issued on August 23, the last date for filing nominations will be August 30, scrutiny of nominations will take place the next day, the last date for withdrawals will be September 2 and the polling will take place on September 22 after the completion of the statutory minimum period for the campaign.

Governor's advice: The Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, who from the very beginning was in favour of an early poll, accepted the advice of the Governor, Mr. Arjun Singh, that any undue delay in holding the elections would not contribute to a smooth implementation of the recent agreement. Despite the Akali Dal chief, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal's plea for postponement, the Centre decided that a popular Government should be installed well in time to implement the awards of the various tribunals being set up under this agreement.

For example, the territorial commission entrusted with the transfer of some of the Hindi speaking areas of Punjab to Haryana has to give its award by December 31, and the actual transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab and these areas to Haryana are to take place simultaneously on January 26, 1986. To ensure smooth implementation of this part of the agreement,

the Centre wants a popularly elected Government in Punjab to bear the responsibility rather than the Governor and his advisers in the event of a further extension of President's rule.

Calculated risk: In arriving at this decision after great deliberation, the Prime Minister and his advisers have taken a calculated risk in proceeding on the assumption that the very announcement of early elections will give the dissident Akalis a stake in allowing an orderly poll to ensure their proportion of seats in the new Assembly and also in Parliament. As regards the extremists, they are bound to create some trouble whether the elections are held sooner or later.

Those who are opposed to an early poll feel that Punjab is still in a disturbed condition and it would take some more time to restore political stability in the State. There is, in their view, a grave danger of violence in going in for early elections because of constitutional requirements.

But there are many in the Opposition parties who share the Government's view that a further postponement of the poll would not by itself lead to an early return to normality in the State. It would on the contrary prolong the present suspense and render the implementation of the Rajiv-Longowal agreement all the more difficult.

Govt. confident: The Government proposes to take all possible steps to maintain law and order and ensure a peaceful conduct of the elections. There are bound to be some incidents, but the Central and State authorities appear to be reasonably confident that no large-scale violence is likely in the changed political atmosphere.

It is argued that the Assam parallel will not apply since the Akali leaders who led the agitation will be participating in the poll and not boycotting it. In the case of Assam the students and others had actively campaigned against the elections there.

CSO: 4600/1689

INDIA

ANALYST ASSESSES GANDHI PERFORMANCE, PRAISES ACCORDS

Madras THE HINDU in English 18 Aug 85 p 2

[Text]

THE public attitudes in any society, whether it is capitalist or communist, a democracy, or a dictatorship, are notoriously fickle and unpredictable even at the best of times. The common man may put up with indignities and privations under pressure of events, but he resents being pushed around and taken for granted by the ruling élites that thrive on the spoils of political power and inequities of social dispensation.

A leader can influence public opinion when he is responsive to the aspirations of the poorer sections, ready to redress their grievances with imaginative measures and does not behave as though he alone knows what is good for the nation. One can organise the minds of the people with well orchestrated propaganda but cannot influence their hearts without understanding their emotions. The secret of success in politics lies not in clinging to power at any cost, but in adopting a tolerant stance towards criticism; while displaying an intuitive capacity to interpret one's own political relevance in terms of the larger public interest.

Inner resilience

If Indian democracy has been able to survive endless challenges, it is largely because of its inner resilience, the opportunity it offers to the people to voice their feelings freely and exercise their franchise fearlessly, relying more on their instinctive ability rather than the superior-

ity of better informed opinion for sizing up situations. The Indian people by and large have not felt unduly inhibited, except during the sad interlude of the Emergency, in utilising the electoral process to discipline wayward politicians and defeat undeserving governments.

It is this free tradition of the people to speak out their minds without much inhibition that has helped to sustain Indian democracy during the many difficult phases the country has passed through since Independence. The art of leadership, therefore, calls for an unfailing sensitivity on the part of those in power to assess the changing moods of the people and take corrective steps in good time to restore their faith and make them feel reasonably reassured that the Government is not indifferent to their aspirations.

Man of destiny

As a young Prime Minister with no past to live down, as one who came to power in the most tragic circumstances with the goodwill of the people, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi has been uniquely placed in developing a special communion with the great majority of his countrymen. His disarming modesty and transparent sincerity, followed by a burning desire to make a refreshing break with the murky past, gave him a well-integrated personality that went a long way in winning the last elections.

The people came to look upon him as a man

CSO: 4600/1689

INDIA

REPORTAGE OF SIGNING OF ASSAM AGREEMENT

Text of Agreement

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 16 Aug 85 p 9

[Text]

Following is the text of the agreement:
Memorandum of settlement:

1. The government have all along been most anxious to find a satisfactory solution to the problem of foreigners in Assam. The All-Assam Students Union (AASU) and the AAGSP have also expressed their keenness to find such a solution.

2. The AASU through their memorandum dated February 2, 1980 presented to the late Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, conveyed their profound sense of apprehension regarding the influx of foreign nationals into Assam and fear about adverse affects on the political, social, economic and the cultural life of the state.

3. Being fully alive to the genuine apprehensions of the people of Assam, the then prime Minister initiated the dialogue with the AASU and the AAGSP. Subsequently the talks were held at the Prime Minister's and home minister's levels during the period 1980-1983. Several rounds of informal talks were held during 1984. Formal discussions resumed in March 1985.

4. Keeping all prospects of the problem including constitutional and legal provisions, international agreements and national commitments and humanitarian consideration it has been decided to proceed as follows:-

Foreigners Issue:

5(1) For purposes of detection and deletion of foreigners January 1, 1966, shall be the base date and year.

5(2) All persons who came to Assam prior to January 1, 1966, including those amongst them whose names appeared on the electoral rolls used in 1967. Elections, shall be regularised.

5(3) Foreigners who came to Assam after January 1, 1966, (inclusive) upto March 24, 1971, shall be detected in accordance with the provisions of Foreigners Act 1946 and the foreigners (tribunal) order 1964.

5(4) Names of foreigners so detected will be deleted from the electoral rolls in force. Such persons will be required to register themselves before the registration officer in the respective districts in accordance with Registration of foreigners Act 1939 and registration of foreigners rules 1939.

5(5) For this purpose the government of India will undertake suitable strengthening of the government machinery.

5(6) On the expiry of a period of ten years following the date of detection, the names of all such persons which have been deleted from the electoral rolls shall be restored.

5(7) All persons who were expelled earlier but have since re-entered illegally into Assam shall be expelled.

5(8) Foreigners who came to Assam on or after March 25, 1971, shall continue to be detected, deleted and expelled in accordance with law. Immediate and practical steps shall be taken to expel such foreigners.

5(9) The government of India will give due consideration to certain difficulties expressed by the AASU and AAGSP regarding implementation of Illegal Migrants (determination B, tribunals) Act, 1983.

Safeguards and economic development:

6. Constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards as may be appropriate will be provided to protect the cultural, social and linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people.

7. The government takes this opportunity to renew the commitment for the speedy, all round economic development of Assam. So as to improve the standard of living of the people special emphasis will be placed on education, science and technology and establishment of national institutions in Assam.

8(1) Citizenship certificates in future will be issued only by the authorities of the central government.

8(2) Specific complaints made by AASU and AAGSP about irregular issuance of Indian citizenship certificates will be looked into.

8(3) The international border will be made secure against future infiltration by erection of physical barriers such as walls, barbed fence and other obstacles at appropriate places. Patrolling of security forces on land and river along the international border will be adequately intensified.

In order to further strengthen the security arrangements and prevent future infiltration, adequate number of check posts will be set up. Besides, a road all along the international border will be constructed so as to facilitate patrolling by security forces.

9. The land between Assam and Bangladesh will be kept free of human habitation wherever possible. Patrolling along the international border will be intensified and all effective

measures will be adopted to prevent infiltrators from crossing or attempting to cross the international border.

10. It will be ensured that relevant laws for prevention of encroachment on government land and lands in tribal belts and blocks are strictly enforced. Unauthorised encroachers will be evicted under such laws. It will be ensured that relevant laws restricting acquisition of immovable properties by foreigners in Assam will be strictly enforced.

It will be ensured that birth and death registers are duly maintained. Restoration of normalcy:

AASU and AAGSP will call off the agitation and take up themselves towards the development of the country.

The Centre and state governments have agreed to:-

(a) View with sympathy and withdraw cases of disciplinary action taken against its employees. In the

context of the agitation to ensure that there is no victimisation.

(b) Frame a scheme for ex-gratia payment to the next of kin of those killed in the course of the agitation.

(c) Give sympathetic consideration to the proposals for extension of age limit for purposes of employment in public services, having regard to exceptional situation prevailed in holding of academic and competitive examinations etc. in the context of the agitation.

(d) Undertake review of detention cases, if any, as well as cases against persons charged with criminal offences in connection with the agitation except those charges of commission of heinous offences.

(e) Consider withdrawal of prohibitory orders notification in force if any.

(f) The Union home ministry will be the nodal ministry for the implementation of the accord.

Assembly Dissolved, New Cabinet

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 Aug 85 p 1

[Text]

GUWAHATI,
August 18 (UNI).

THE 30-month-old Assam Assembly was dissolved today as per the understanding reached between the Centre and the Assam movement leaders before signing the accord on the foreign nationals' issue on Thursday.

Dissolving the assembly, the governor, Mr. Bhishma Narain Singh, requested the chief minister, Mr. Hiteshwär Saikia, to continue in office heading a 17-member caretaker government.

Twenty members of Mr. Saikia's ministry resigned earlier in the day to pave the way for a small caretaker ministry.

Mr. Saikia said the decision to recommend the dissolution of the assembly was taken at a cabinet meeting.

The portfolios of the ministers retained would be decided tonight, Mr. Saikia told newsmen.

Mr. Saikia said the cabinet recommended the dissolution of the assembly keeping in view the public declaration made by him this month at

Calcutta and Guwahati that in the event of a settlement of the foreigners' issue he would seek a fresh mandate.

Of the 20 ministers who quit, nine were of cabinet rank. On the recommendation of the chief minister, the governor accepted their resignations.

The cabinet ministers in the caretaker government are: Mr. Mohammed Idris, Mr. K. C. Gogoi, Mrs. Anawara Taimur, Mr. R. N. Basumatari, Mr. Sadhan Ranjan Sarkar, Mr. Dedpak Murmoo, Mr. Mukut Sharma, Mr. G. C. Lagithasa and Mr. Abdul Rahim Majumdar.

The ministers of state are: Mr. Kabir Roy Radhani, Mr. Ibrahim Ali, Mr. Nepal Das, Mr. Mithuas Tidu, Mr. Luis Islari, Mr. Kul Bahadur Chetri and Mr. Darsingh Teron.

The chief minister said elections to both the assembly and the pending parliamentary seats were expected to be held in November.

The Congress observer, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, who was present when the chief minister talked to newsmen, said the 20 ministers had resigned voluntarily to work for strengthening the organisation.

The All-Assam Students' Union and the All-Assam Gana Sangram Parishad, which spearheaded the six-year movement had been demanding the dissolution of the 'illegal' assembly.

TALKS WITH GOVERNOR

Earlier, Mr. Saikia called on Mr. Bhishma Narain Singh at Raj Bhavan and discussed with him for nearly 45 minutes the political situation in the state. He was accompanied by Mr. Rajesh Pilot.

Meanwhile, Mr. Saikia who was to leave for New Delhi today has cancelled his visit.

Mr. Pilot was sent to Guwahati by the Congress leadership as AICC observer immediately after the Assam accord was signed.

Meanwhile security arrangements have been tightened all over Assam to prevent any untoward incident.

The dissolved assembly had 109 members. Election in 17 constituencies could not be held in 1983 because of large-scale violence. In the bloody election, more than 3,000 people lost their lives and thousands were uprooted. The AASU and the AAGSP opposed the election prior to a solution to the foreign nationals' issue.

The Congress had 100 seats in the dissolved assembly. Three members died. The CPM had two members, the CPI one, Congress (S) one, CPI (ML) one, PTCA one and rest were independents. The BJP and the Janata party had boycotted the election.

The Janata Party leader, Mr. Dulal Chandra Baruah, this evening called on the governor and welcomed the dissolution of the assembly.

Mr. Baruah, however, expressed dissatisfaction over the size of the caretaker ministry and urged the governor to see that it could not use the official machinery in the coming elections.

Meanwhile, the Assam movement leaders said in Delhi tonight that they would meet Mr. Rajiv Gandhi tomorrow to express their unhappiness about the large size of the caretaker ministry headed by Mr. Saikia.

Mr. Lalit Chandra Rajkhowa, advisor to the AASU, said the impression given to them during the final round of talks by the Central leaders was that the caretaker ministry would be very small.

The CPI state unit secretary, Mr. Biswanath Mukherjee, today strongly protested against the Assam accord, which he said, would render a large number of Bengalis stateless.

In a statement in Delhi, Mr. Mukherjee said that this decision should be changed and the people who came to Assam on or before 1971 should be granted citizenship and the right to vote.

He said there was serious apprehension that the people who would lose their citizenship might feel insecure in Assam and crowd in West Bengal.

Meanwhile, the "deputy" election commissioner Mr. V. Ramakrishnan, is visiting Guwahati tomorrow for an assessment of the progress of the electoral rolls.

PTI adds: Mr. Prasanna Konwar, assistant general secretary of tribal youth union and an executive member of the AAGSP today denied that he was a party to the statement expressing resentment against the Assam accord.

In a statement in New Delhi, today, Mr. Konwar said that neither he had signed that statement on August 15 nor the tribal youth union, a constituent of the AAGSP, had taken any decision to oppose the accord.

Meanwhile, the Assam association today held a reception at Delhi for the co-ordination committee members of the AASU and the AAGSP.

Bangla denial (UNI from Dhaka): A Bangladesh foreign office spokesman has categorically denied that there are any Bangladeshis in Assam, responding to newspaper reports recently from India.

The spokesman stated that all citizens of Bangladesh who crossed over to India during the independence war returned to Bangladesh soon afterwards.

Asked to comment on the Assam accord, the spokesman said: "We have just received the text of the agreement and we are studying it." He refused to comment further on it.

AASU Leaders' Press Conference

New Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES WEEKLY in English 18 Aug 85 p 8

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Aug. 17 — Leaders of the movement against alien settlers in Assam today made it clear that notwithstanding the accord reached with the Government, they will not co-operate with the Hiteswar Saikia Government.

They confirmed at a Press conference here that this was the point on which there had been delay in reaching the accord earlier this week. They had conveyed their decision to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in the course of their prolonged discussions.

The dissolution of the State Assembly elected in 1983 was promised to them within a week and it was expected any day, All-Assam Students Union (AASU) president Prafulla Kumar Mahanta said.

The Saikia Government continued to be "illegal" in their eyes and even his continuance as the Caretaker Chief Minister was illegal.

Mr Mahanta made it clear that the AASU and the All-Assam Gana Sangram Parishad (AAGSP) were against any caretaker Government and had wanted the President's rule. But the Prime Minister had cited Constitutional compulsions against any instant dismissal of the Saikia Government and imposition of the President's rule.

The movement leaders were tight-lipped about the next course of action they might take in the light of the accord and the forthcoming elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Assembly. To persistent queries from newsmen, they averred that they were not

empowered to take decision on this. Their respective executives and general bodies would have to meet and sort out the issue.

Both the AASU and the AAGSP were non-political organisations and were barred from political activity. Their future course may include supporting candidates in the elections.

AASU general secretary Bhrigu Kumar Phukan said under no circumstances, would any Congress-I candidate be extended support.

At the outset, the entire team introduced itself and Mr Mahanta read out a statement expressing satisfaction over the accord reached with the Government. He said the movement was, and had remained, Gandhian in essence and practice.

The movement had remained non-political and there was either lip sym-

pathy or occasional support from political parties. At the same time, the movement had been attacked from "some neighbouring States" whose leaders traded in "abuses and invectives."

The statement said Mr Rajiv Gandhi had understood the Assam problem in its proper perspective and had worked for a negotiated solution.

Mr Mahanta appealed to the people to understand the accord in its proper perspective and help in removing the "cancerous elements (foreigners) from Assam and India."

The AASU and AAGSP leaders said they would continue to work for the detection of foreigners and help the machinery of the Government and the Election Commission in the process that is now underway.

Communist Reaction Reported

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 17 Aug 85 p 5

[Text]

Although both CPI and CPI-M have welcomed the Assam accord as a step that will usher in normalcy in the strife-torn State and will rebuff separatist forces as also imperialist designs, the Marxists have expressed strong reservations on the provision that those entering Assam between 1966 and 1971 will be disfranchised.

CPI-M leader Harkishan Surjeet said on Friday that this provision has violated the 24 March 1971 Indira-Mujib agreement under which those who entered India on or before that date were guaranteed Indian citizenship. "There will be panic among five lakh-odd people in Assam who have been staying there for almost 20 years now", he said.

The CPI, on the other hand, has merely "noted" this provision in a statement issued on Friday and has said that though certain people will be disfranchised they will not be expelled from the State. It has, however, added that 1971 as the cut-off year would have been more to its liking.

Mr Surjeet agreed that his party and the CPI did not see eye-to-eye on this issue. "Our's is a principled stand", he said and cited the instance of Sindhis coming into Gujarat during the 1971 Indo-Pak war and being given Indian citizenship. "We supported that move and now we have objections when the same is not done in Assam".

There might be a very strange situation, he said, when the children of those who during this period might become eligible to vote in two or three years while their parents did not have the same right. "Nowhere have you seen in a democracy a section being disfranchised to satisfy certain people".

Another party, the Janavadi, has also welcomed the accord. In a statement, party leader Chandrajit Yadav said, coming in the wake of the settlement on Punjab, the Assam accord would go a long way in strengthening the integrity of the country and restoring the pace of socio-economic development which had been halted in the agitations and violence.

CPI-M Secretary's Comment

Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 20 Aug 85 p 4

[Text]

New Delhi, Aug. 19: CPI(M) politburo member, Mr Har-kishan Singh Surjeet, said today that while the Punjab accord had been welcomed by both Sikhs and Hindus the Assam agreement had satisfied only the majority section at the expense of the interests of the minority.

Mr Surjeet, criticised the vagueness of the Assam accord which failed to specify how the government was going to disenfranchise those who had come to Assam after 1966. Referring to the Indian Citizenship Act, Mr Singh said while children born in Assam would be able to vote within two years their parents would have to wait for 10 years.

The accord was discussed during the three-day meeting of the party central committee here. Mr Singh was sceptical of the achievement of the accord when the Assam agitation leaders have asserted that they would continue their boycott of the Saikia government.

The Assam accord would create a problem of statelessness

for lakhs of people, Mr Singh said. He reiterated the fears expressed by the West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, that the accord would result in an influx of refugees to the state. He pointed out that the problem of the 11,000 refugees at present in West Bengal camps was nowhere near being settled.

"Where are these disenfranchised people who came after 1971 to go? The Bangladesh government has said that they are not Bangladeshis," he said. Mr Singh denied that the CPI(M) in Assam was behaving like a Bengal Communist Party and categorically asserted that if the Left Front government had not been in power in West Bengal, Assam could well have been strangulated by Calcutta cutting off supplies. "Our government is committed to defending the rights of minorities," he said. He feared the Assam accord would serve as a green signal to other states to harass their minorities and encourage separatist movements.

CSO: 4600/1686

INDIA

HARYANA REPORTED PREPARING TO VACATE CHANDIGARH

New Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES WEEKLY in English 17 Aug 85 p 1

[Text]

CHANDIGARH, Aug. 17—The Haryana Government is preparing a contingency plan to vacate Chandigarh and evacuate its offices and personnel at short notice if the Akalis came to power after the elections in Punjab.

Though under the Rajiv-Longowal accord it is believed that there is an implied understanding that Haryana will be permitted to use Chandigarh as its capital for three years after its formal transfer to Punjab, Haryana officials do not think it would be possible to remain "honourably" in Akali-dominated Punjab as there would be disputes and confrontations on many issues every day.

They feel that under Punjab their position would be virtually that of "second class" citizens as somebody else's writ would run there.

The situation would be particularly unhappy as regards security arrangements for Haryana VIPs. It is well known that Chief Minister Bhajan Lal figures at the top of the hit list of the extremists, some of whom have their friends and sympathisers not only among the ranks of the Punjab police but also among its officers.

As and when Chandigarh is transferred to Punjab on Jan 26, 1986 as per the accord the whole law and order

and security arrangements will pass over to the Punjab police. It would be presumptuous to think that they would permit the Haryana police to look after the security of its VIPs.

Therefore, the Haryana Government is preparing a plan to vacate Chandigarh at the shortest possible notice.

Under this plan, head offices of various departments will be moved to districts and the skeleton secretariat shifted to one place from where direction and coordination of these departments can be done.

For instance, it is proposed to shift the Education Department to Bhiwani, where there is already the office of the Higher Secondary School Education Board. The Electricity Department may be moved to either Panipat or Faridabad, where there are main power complexes. The Irrigation Department may be shifted to Karnal or Kurukshetra, while the Industries Department may be moved to Faridabad or Gurgaon.

As for the Secretariat, a number of places are under consideration, including Hissar, Panchkula and Madhuban. These arrangements will be temporary, until the new capital of Haryana is constructed. A search for the location of the new capital is on.

CSO: 4600/1689

INDIA

PAPERS REPORT ON VISIT OF WORLD BANK PRESIDENT

Statement on Arrival

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 13 Aug 85 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, August 12 (PTI)--Mr A.W. Clausen, president of the World Bank, arrived here today on a visit "to gain a deeper understanding of the perspectives and perceptions of the new generation that is at the helm of India."

In a statement on arrival on a five-day visit, his second as president of the World Bank, Mr Clausen warmly complimented India on its food self-sufficiency, progress in the qualitative aspects of development and a "high degree of self-reliance."

Mr Clausen is to call on the Prime Minister on August 14.

Mr Clausen will meet the finance and industry ministers and the deputy chairman of the planning commission tomorrow. He will also visit the Singrauli super-thermal power station and two villages in Uttar Pradesh.

Mr Clausen said India was "an outstanding example of successful international development co-operation and effectiveness of development assistance." He said the world donor community could take encouragement from the development saga of India.

He noted that India's target of five percent annual growth rate in the seventh plan would not be easy to achieve, in view of the enlarged debt burden, less concessional assistance and uncertain world demand for exports.

Mr Clausen said India would need to expand industrial and export growth while continuing agricultural development.

Mr Clausen recalled Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's declaration at the dawn of India's freedom and said the country could be proud of the economic progress achieved since independence."

He attributed India's success in raising food production to more than 150 million tonnes to the willingness of small farmers to adopt the new agricultural technology and "sensible" government policies.

Mr Clausen also said that in the qualitative aspects of development, as distinct from the quantitative, "India's achievement was encouraging. Improvement in literacy rates, greater enrolment in educational institutions, increased life expectancy and reduction in death rates reflect the country's conviction and commitment, as well as ours, that human well-being is central to economic development."

Talks With Officials

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 15 Aug 85 p 17

[Text] New Delhi, August 14--While lauding India's performance, the World Bank president, Mr A.W. Clausen, during his talks with the ministers for finance and industry yesterday made it clear that there was little likelihood of an improvement in the climate for concessional aid.

At his meeting with the finance minister, Mr V.P. Singh, the Bank president said some progress on the issue of funding of IDA, the bank's soft loan window, was expected soon. It was desirable that an agreement should be reached on this question by 1986, as the IDA funding would become due in 1987.

Mr Clausen hoped the development committee would lend its support to the extended lending programme of the Bank.

The meeting with Mr Singh, which lasted 90 minutes, took place in the context of the forthcoming annual meeting of the Bank to be held at Seoul.

The minister discussed the possibility of the Bank providing assistance for the oil exploration and gas programme during the seventh plan. It was also pointed out that a faster disbursement of funds to bank-aided projects in India would go a long way in helping to adhere to construction and production schedules.

Protectionist Policies

The minister for industry and chemicals and fertilisers, Mr Veerendra Patil, explained the difficulties the country was facing due to protectionist policies of the developed countries.

He told Mr Clausen that while the government was liberally allowing import of technology and modernisation, this required foreign exchange which could only be obtained through higher export earnings. But higher exports by India were becoming difficult to sustain because of the developed countries' restrictive policies.

Mr Clausen was also informed that the government was removing all obstacles to Indian industry achieving economies of scale. The government was also keen to ensure that industries got raw materials at international prices so they could become competitive in the world market. The emphasis on improvement of productivity and liberal import of technology was also a step in this direction.

The World Bank president said the Bank would like to assist India in industrial research and support technology upgradation and modernisation. It could also help in modernising the small scale sector to which it attached great importance.

'Quite Feasible'

During the hour-long meeting with the deputy chairman of the planning commission, Dr Manmohan Singh, Mr Clausen expressed the view that though the seventh plan targets were somewhat ambitious, it might be "quite feasible" to achieve them with adequate and well-coordinated efforts.

Mr Clausen agreed with Dr Singh that the targets were ambitious because of comparatively high base year production levels. The plan, Dr Singh said, would place particular emphasis on productivity, modernisation and greater competitive pressure on costs.

Existing enterprises and new investments would have to be subjected to stricter tests. Yet at the same time, Dr Singh said, care would have to be taken to see that progress was not at the cost of large segments of the population.

Assuring Dr Singh of the Bank's continued interest and support for India's development efforts, Mr Clausen said India's sustained development and success in raising the people's living standards were noteworthy achievements.

More Details, Meeting With Gandhi

New Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 15 Aug 85 p 8

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 14—Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi told World Bank President A.W. Clausen here today that India would welcome the Bank's support in its development effort during the Seventh Plan, especially in infrastructure, agriculture and human resources development, including education.

Mr Gandhi had a meeting with the Bank President this morning that lasted about 35 to 40 minutes. They continued their discussion informally later at a lunch.

Soon after his meeting with the Prime Minister, Mr Clausen flew to Varanasi to visit World Bank-aided projects like the Singrauli super thermal plant and those related to tribal welfare in two Uttar Pradesh villages.

Mr Gandhi told Mr Clausen about the economic initiatives that his Government had taken, and the way in which the World Bank could help and support India's development effort within the framework of the Seventh Plan.

Earlier, Mr Clausen had an hour-long discussion with the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development Buta Singh.

He said that the World Bank was anxious to work with India in support of goals and strategies developed for the Seventh Plan.

The World Bank President assured support to the Indian agriculture sector which, he said, had made remarkable progress over the years.

Mr Clausen evinced keen interest in credit utilisation, development of dryland farming and the water management efforts and said a World Bank team of strategy planners would be coming in September to hold detailed discussions with the Agriculture Ministry and draw up blueprints for assisting Indian agriculture in thrust areas during the Seventh Plan.

Mr Buta Singh said that the Bank had supported projects practically in all important infrastructural services, particularly agricultural extension, research, irrigation, seeds, fertilisers, credit and marketing and expressed the hope that assistance from the Bank would be continued in the future.

Spelling out the strategy for the Seventh Plan, Mr Buta Singh said that while efforts would continue to increase productivity in irrigated areas, greater emphasis would be laid on development of dryland farming.

It was planned to increase food production by 30 million tonnes during the next five years and also produce more of pulses and oilseeds. There would also be greater emphasis on horticulture, social forestry, animal husbandry, fishery and poultry.

Meets Press on 16 Aug

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 17 Aug 85 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, August 16--Mr A.W. Clausen, the president of the World Bank, today gave the assurance that the bank's total assistance to India during the next five years would exceed that during the sixth plan period.

Addressing a news conference here on the eve of his departure, Mr Clausen said India's case for continuing to receive concessional assistance from the International Development Association (IDA) was a strong one. He believed that India should not be penalised for its development success.

However, given the constraint on IDA resources, India could have greater access to loans from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). Since the country's debt servicing burden was not onerous, the bank was also encouraging India to resort to commercial borrowings for investment in high-yielding projects, Mr Clausen said.

He held out the hope that the IDA funds would be enlarged, and India would continue to get IDA assistance. There was every likelihood of the IDA-7 replenishment, which now stood at \$9 billion being enlarged by another \$3 billion. Informal consultations with IDA donor-countries were going on and a decision would be taken at the bank's annual meeting in Korea in early October.

Mr Clausen envisioned three areas in particular, for the involvement of IFC in India--business ventures where technological innovation or technology transfer and development are important, mobilising foreign exchange financing for large projects, and helping the private financial sector through investment in leasing, housing finance and venture capital companies. Emphasis, he said, must be on helping companies to expand their export activities.

He said that from his talks with Indian leaders, he was impressed the government's emphasis on modernisation of technology to support an expanding industrial base." The policy framework in the industrial sector must continue to be reviewed along the lines already initiated by the government." The bank also endorsed the importance that India has given to sustained agricultural growth.

Asked if the bank received any specific proposal from the government for financing the Ganga water purification scheme, Mr Clausen said the bank would be very receptive to any such proposal. He felt the Ganga waters required cleaning and said the bank was involved from the very beginning in the evolution of the scheme.

Advice on Borrowing

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 17 Aug 85 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 16—During his discussions with the Government, Mr A.W. Clausen, President of the World Bank, suggested that India go in for external borrowing from commercial sources, though within the resource constraints the Bank would be willing to extend maximum assistance from its soft-loan outlets.

Mr Clausen, who has been here since Monday at the invitation of the Government, told reporters here today that in the context of the needs of the developing countries, India was credit-worthy and could have access to other avenues. He said he had conveyed this at his meetings with the Ministers for Finance and Agriculture and the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission.

"There is no way that one institution can provide all the assistance to India," he said. The Bank fund to India had been increasing but it would be unrealistic to expect it to extend the same kind of assistance to India in future.

Acknowledging that the seventh IDA replenishment of just \$3 billion a year was inadequate, Mr Clausen hoped to persuade the donors to step up the next replenishment. But he did indicate that in the coming year there would be more rescheduling of debt, the precise nature of which would be known only after consultations with the donors at the annual meeting to be held in Korea early in October.

The World Bank President talked about a general awareness among the nations that helping developing countries would, in effect, benefit developed countries themselves and gave the illustration of USA diverting its goods and services to the developing world.

CSO: 4600/1677

INDIA

PAPERS REPORT TIBETANS' REACTION TO PRC CELEBRATION

Spokesman's Press Conference

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 20 Aug 85 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 19--Mr Donyo Jagortsang, spokesman of the Assembly of Tibetan People's Deputies, said at a Press conference here today that Tibetans, in and outside Tibet, numbering some six million, "strongly denounce China's decision to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the formation of the so-called Tibet autonomous region."

Mr Jagortsang said that Tibetans would lead a peaceful demonstration tomorrow morning from the Teen Murti round about to the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi as a protest against the proposed Chinese celebrations.

"The Tibetans in and out of Tibet do not accept the so-called Tibet autonomous region. Tibet consists of the provinces of Dhotoes (Kham) Dhome (Amdo) and U-Tsang and for centuries Tibet had remained an independent country. The so-called Tibet autonomous region is only a part of this unified Tibet," he said.

Replying to questions, Mr Jagortsang said that the Dalai Lama had only spoken about the possibility of his visit to China in 1985. The visit had been postponed. The fact was that when the second exploratory mission appointed by the Dalai Lama went to China last November, the Chinese made certain pre-conditions: that the Dalai Lama was welcome to visit China, but not Tibet, that he would be given an important position in China and that he would be allowed to visit Tibet from time to time, but not stay there permanently. The exploratory mission reported that the Tibetans living in Tibet "do not want to be under the Chinese rule, they want freedom and independence."

Rally Near Embassy

New Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 21 Aug 85 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 20--Over 1,000 slogan-shouting, banner-waving Tibetans this morning held a peaceful demonstration in front of the Chinese Embassy to protest against the Chinese invaders celebrating the 20th anniversary of the so-called Tibet Autonomous Region.

The demonstrators gathered at the Embassy came from all over India bearing placards saying 'China leave Tibet' and 'Chinese achievement in Tibet: 1.2 million murdered.'

The protest march, organised by the Assembly of Tibetan People's Deputies led by its member Donyo Jogortsang presented a memorandum which was stuck on the blue gates of the Embassy. They will also present an open letter to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi later.

The memorandum stated that the celebration being undertaken by the invaders was a grave provocation and 'we will not stand for the divide-and-rule policy of the Chinese Government.' The struggle shall continue till Tibet is free.

It said today Tibet is a grave yard of a rich and unique civilisation and it was time you took note of the truths of Tibetan history and recognised the aspirations of the Tibetan people. It also called upon the Chinese to conduct a free and fair internationally supervised plebiscite in that country whose verdict must be final and binding.

The open letter sent a message of greeting to Mr Gandhi on his birthday and said it was a matter of regret that the stir was held today. The letter said the Tibetans were grateful for the assistance rendered by the Government and the people of India.

CSO: 4600/1688

INDIA

CONTENT OF BILL ON CORRUPTION INVESTIGATIONS TOLD

Madras THE HINDU in English 13 Aug 85 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Aug. 12.

The Government today announced its plan to go ahead immediately with the Bill, envisaging the appointment of a Lok Pal, an authority to inquire into charges of corruption against Union Ministers and Chief Ministers. The Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Mr. H. K. L. Bhagat, who convened a meeting of the Opposition leaders, said the Government proposed to introduce the Bill in Parliament and would like it to be passed in this session.

At his meeting with Opposition representatives last week, the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, had indicated the Government's plan to proceed with the Bill, which was aborted thrice in the past—in 1968 and 1971 during Indira Gandhi's tenure and in 1977 during the Janata regime. Today's discussions were a follow-up of the Prime Minister's announcement.

The Opposition leaders, who were given the draft of the Bill, wanted time to study its provisions. The next round of discussions was fixed for August 19. The Government appeared keen to go ahead with the measure with the same urgency as was evident at the time of the anti-defection measure in January last.

Major departure: The scheme of the proposed measure does not cover the President, Vice-President, Prime Minister and the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. The MPs, too, would not be within the purview of the new Bill. The exclusion of the Prime Minister was a major departure from the earlier Bills and the Opposition did not mince words in expressing its disagreement with it. The entire scheme of inquiry into charges of corruption in high places would be diluted if the Prime Minister, the highest executive of the land were not to be covered by it, was the burden of the Opposition argument.

Mr. P. Shiv Shankar, former Union Minister, who also attended today's meeting, however, defended the exclusions, saying that the Prime Minister was also the leader of the nation and his involvement in inquiries could lead to destabilisation. The Minister of State for Law, Mr. Bheradwaj, explained that the MPs were proposed to be kept out of the purview of the measures as, according to a Supreme Court judgment, they were not public servants.

Under the Janata Bill, as introduced in 1978, MPs were to be covered by the inquiry scheme but the Joint Select Committee, to which the Bill was referred, favoured their exclusion. In the past, the Lok Pal could not be placed on the statute book because it lapsed following the dissolution of the Lok Sabha.

Conflicts in States: Mr. P. Upendra, leader of the Telugu Desam Parliamentary Party, wanted not only the MPs but also chairmen of the public sector corporations, and heads of the national-level cooperative organisations to be covered by the Bill. In its present restricted form, the Lok Pal, according to him, would be concerned with the charges against some 75 or so public figures. Also, he drew attention to the possible conflict in the States like Karnataka where a Lok Ayukta had been set up and could inquire into allegations against Chief Ministers. There might be cases, when the conduct of a Chief Minister was subjected to two prob-

es—one by the Lok Pal and the other by the Lok Ayukta. Which verdict would hold good in such cases, he asked.

At times, the discussion became lively. For instance, objection was raised to the provision under which the report of the Lok Pal against a Chief Minister was to be referred for action to the Chief Minister concerned. Mr. Upendra said it would create odd situations if, say, the report against Mr. Bhejan Lal of Haryana were to be sent to him for action. Mr. Shiv Shankar replied that in such cases, public opinion would assert itself.

Features: The salient features of the proposed Bill are: (1) Complaints alleging offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act or Chapter IX of the Indian Penal Code (offences relating to public servants) will be inquired into by the Lok Pal. (2) Complaints can only be against (i) a Union Minister (except the Prime Minister) including a Deputy Minister or a Parliament Secretary; (ii) Chief Minister of State and Union Territory, and in the case of President's rule in a State, the Governor.

(3) Every complaint will be accompanied by an affidavit and security deposit of Rs. 1,000; (4) The Lok Pal will be appointed in consulta-

tion with the Chief Justice of India. He will be either a serving or a retired Supreme Court Judge or a person eligible to be appointed as Supreme Court judge; (5) The Lok Pal can dismiss a complaint if it is frivolous or pertains to an alleged offence committed five years prior to the date of complaint; (6) After Inquiry, the Lok Pal will submit his report to the Prime Minister, in the case of Union Ministers, and the Chief Minister where the complaint is against the Chief Minister.

(7) Action on the report is to be taken within three months and the Lok Pal has to be informed. If the Lok Pal is not satisfied with the action taken, he can submit a special report. The Lok Pal is also to give an annual report on his functions. These reports are to be placed before Parliament. Either the special report or the extract of annual report concerning complaint against a Chief Minister, is to be placed before the legislature of the State or the Union Territory concerned. (8) The public prosecutor will file a complaint before the competent court where

any person insults or interferes with the Lok Pal. (9) If false evidence is given before him or the Lok Pal finds that the complaint is maliciously false, then on a summary proceeding, the Lok Pal can convict and sentence the accused person.

The Opposition leaders who attended today's meeting were: (from the Lok Sabha): Mr. C. Madhav Reddi (TDP), Mr. Basudeb Acharya (CPI-M), Mr. P. Kolandaiyvelu (AIADMK), Mr. Madhu Dandevate (Janata), Mr. Indrajit Gupta (CP), Mr. K. P. Unnikrishnan (Cong-S), Mr. Pius Tirkey (RSP), Mr. C. Janga Reddi (BJP), Mr. Ebrahim Sulaiman Sait (Muslim League), Mr. George Joseph Mundackal (Kerala Cong-J) and Mr. N. V. N. Somu (DMK).

(From the Rajya Sabha): Mr. Nirmal Chatterjee (CPI-M), Mr. M. S. Gurupadaswamy (Janata), Mr. L. K. Advani (BJP), Mr. Virendra Verma (Lok Dal), Mr. Indradeep Singh (CP), Mr. P. Upendra (TDP), Mr. V. Gopalasamy (DMK) and Mr. S. W. Dhebe (Congress-S).

CSO: 4600/1678

INDIA

BRIEFS

SUPREME COURT ON ELECTION PETITIONS--New Delhi, Aug 18--Forty kilogramme of heroin valued at Rs 2 crores was seized from a Pakistani smuggler from the Rajasthan border by the Border Security Force early today, a BSF spokesman said here, reports UNI. The smuggler, identified as Khatirkhan, was first sighted on camel back at Pochimarkardu near Jaisalmer. After a 14-hour chase by a BSF party, the smuggler was caught near Adam Fakirkia Thani. The contraband loaded on the camel was seized from him but an associate managed to escape, the spokesman said. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 19 Aug 85 p 9]

CSO: 4600/1682

IRAN

U.S.-USSR 'COLLUSION' AT WOMEN'S FORUM 1985 IN KENYA CITED

Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 11 Aug 85 p 8

[Text] The gathering of United Nations member states to study the situation of women during the past decade which began on 24 Tir [15 July] in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, ended this month on 4 Mordad [26 July]. This gathering, which included a large number of women from more than 140 countries, like all similar gatherings, was only window dressing, and produced no real and positive results for the oppressed women of the world, in whose name it was held. The reality is that gatherings and meetings such as this are nothing more than pomp and pageantry, and actually have no effect or content, just as the meetings of the parent organization, the United Nations, have so far produced no positive results for the oppressed of the world. The propaganda and commotion which were produced for this gathering have mainly helped to make it ineffective and superficial. The presence of the superpowers and their lackeys is an obstacle that prevents such meetings from playing their real and necessary role. This was the very situation in the Conference to Study the Situation of Women in the Last Decade, which was organized by the United Nations. Representatives of America, the Soviet Union, and nations affiliated with them also played their imperialist and destructive role in this conference, and once again showed their true face. The conference revealed the collusion between America and the Soviets and their behind-the-scenes policy. Support for the superpower plots by Third World countries, especially those countries which claim to be Islamic, was very unfortunate.

The representatives from Egypt presided over one of the committees at this conference, which was composed of the nations of the Middle East and also included the Islamic Republic of Iran. They were on a close cooperative and friendly basis with the American and Israeli representatives. At the first session of the conference the delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran proposed that the words imperialism and Zionism be considered obstacles to equality. At first Libya, Syria, and then other countries such as Algeria, the Democratic Republic of Yemen, and Cuba backed Iran's proposal. Despite receiving the support of some nations, however, this proposal was sent to the Working Committee, whose primary responsibility was to study proposals that were not approved in the main assembly, and was not approved. After this, Egypt and Israel's representatives got together and congratulated one another on succeeding in opposing this proposal and plotting to make other countries join them in stopping the enactment of Iran's proposal.

Another issue that came up at this meeting was an article of the by-laws for previous conferences which said that women who become pregnant illegally must be supported by governments. The Iranian delegation vigorously opposed this, and in so doing met with opposition and protest from representatives of Western and European countries. However, with persistence and effort the delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran finally eliminated this article. Another part of this conference's by-laws discussed obstacles to progress. Concerning this, Iran again proposed that

Zionism be listed as one of those obstacles because of the crimes that have been committed in the Middle East, especially Palestine and Lebanon. A number of countries also declared their agreement with this proposal, but Iraq joined Israel in opposing it and it did not pass.

Concerning the section of the by-laws dealing with obstacles to peace, the delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran repeated the same demand, and called upon the delegations to add Zionism to that section as one of the obstacles to peace, but despite all efforts, all countries kept silent. Using great pressure in order to make the delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran compromise, they were finally successful in isolating Iran, and they removed the word Zionism from its place alongside imperialism as an obstacle to the progress of peace and equality. America's role in this plot was very prominent. The American delegation made a great commotion in its effort to prevent the enactment of this proposal, on the pretext that this conference must not be mixed with political issues.

The Soviet Union, with the deceptive policy it followed on this matter, proved that its policy was in collusion with America, because despite the fact that the idea that Zionism, along with imperialism, is one of the obstacles to progress was introduced by Soviet Union itself, it was silent during the period for discussion of this proposal and backed away from its position. America, in turn, kept silent and expressed no opposition on another proposal that was in the interest of the Soviet Union.

The unfortunate thing is that the Islamic countries, even those that proclaim enmity with Zionism and Israel such as the Palestine Liberation Organization, remained silent in the face of this plot, and in so doing indicated their support for removing the word Zionism from this article and put their stamp of approval on Israel's crimes and oppression against deprived and oppressed Muslims. It is in such situations that the compromising and criminal face of those who pretend to fight Zionism and to support oppressed Muslims subject to Israeli cruelty is exposed, and their inner reality becomes clear. How can these people pretending to fight Israel betray the blood of thousands and thousands of Muslim, Palestinian, and Lebanese martyrs this way, and so easily? How can they disregard the rights of thousands and thousands of Palestinian and Lebanese women and children refugees who have been driven out of their homes by Zionism and must carry on with their lives under the worst and most difficult conditions? How can they agree to the removal of Zionism from the by-laws as an obstacle to peace, equality, and progress? This is where the lack of integrity and fruitlessness of such conferences and meetings becomes quite clear, and where it is proven to the world's oppressed and deprived that they cannot place any hope in these conferences and gatherings. Just as the representative of the Iranian delegation said: The world's oppressed and deprived can only be saved through unity, not through these conferences and their results.

What occurred on the fringes of this conference clearly illuminated the nature of its participants, such as the collusion between America and the Soviet Union on many matters. Although on the surface the two superpowers are opposed to each other, each calling the other a threat to peace and tranquility in the world, they came together very well at this conference, and were in agreement on various topics.

9310
CSO: 4640/710

IRAN

ARTICLE LOOKS AT ACTIVITIES OF FREE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 18 Aug 85 p 6

[Excerpts] In a report to the Majlis, the Minister of Education and Training announced: We have a shortage of around 15,000 teachers, including 3,403 teachers of religious thought, 2,609 teachers of Persian literature, 2,145 Arabic Arabic teachers, 2,073 physical fitness teachers, 1,953 coaches, 1,452 sociology teachers, 739 English teachers, 659 geography teachers, 420 statistics teachers, 235 physics teachers, 142 philosophy teachers, and 1,583 chemistry teachers. We have very few school administrators. In the girls high schools and elementary guidance schools, due to the fact that some of the women colleagues who are teaching lack the necessary ability, we have a shortage of 70,000 instructors, and especially more than 15,000 teachers.¹

With this background, I read the interview with the acting president of the Free Islamic University in ETTELA'AT 17605 for 9 Khordad 1364 [30 May 1985], which announced: In the current year more than 30,000 students will come to the Free Islamic University. We have concluded contracts with many ministries to train specialized committed cadres under which we will be required to train students for them. I thought that this represents the fruition of what has been said by the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education, and that the shortage in the Ministry of Education and Training will continue to grow. This gullibility did not last long, however, because according to subsequent remarks by the Free University official, it will be impossible for it to reach its minimum goals with the low level of teaching manpower it has available. Secondly, their financial resources are very insignificant, not even comparable with the country's weakest centers of higher education. Thirdly, the work is beginning with a propaganda blitz, and when education and training are combined with a commotion, they become adulterated. Fourth, there is a very high student to teacher ratio, and this is mostly a joke. Fifth, the number of professors at this university and its service resources are minimal, unable to meet even one-tenth of the real educational needs, or of the so-called standard and criterion. In general, it seems that the goals of higher education and faith in the official universities which bear the sacred name of Islam have been naively endangered. Clearly, if the situation continues in this way, the memory or the reality will be revived of some of the private schools of higher education and universities during the period of the idolaters, who merely dispensed credentials without actually teaching, calling themselves institutions of higher learning without justification. The difference was that they did not call themselves "Islamic," and the Free University is called an Islamic school.

In order for you to see the depth of these matters, note the following selections from interviews with Free Islamic University officials. The President of the Free Islamic University said: Cultural officials conducted three separate experiments in which 10,000 students were selected to earn high school diplomas, pre-university diplomas, and bachelor's degrees.² Also: The medical group includes 14 fields being taught in the five cities of Tehran, Karaj, Tabriz, Ardebil, and Zahedan.

Of these 14 fields, 14 are medical, and the rest are fields affiliated with the medical profession. In sum, they are selecting 2,500 students for this experiment. For the other fields 1,750 students will be chosen, which mean that 20,000 people may participate this year in competitive examinations for admission. In the current year 40,000 students will be accepted to study single subjects at units of the Free University and throughout the country. With regard to physicians, we have three chief difficulties, including the shortage of professors in the basic sciences and medicine, the shortage of laboratory resources, and the problem of hospitals.

In the first matter, professors were interviewed and a number of them declared their readiness to teach. With regard to laboratory facilities, studies were conducted, and we can see that the laboratories available to the universities, hospitals, and other institutions are not being fully utilized, and can be used. In the third instance, our hospitals are now much richer and better equipped than those in other countries, and we can make use of them. Since the beginning of the month of Ordibehesht 1362 [21 April 1983] we have been able to accept more than 27,000 students for journeyman, expert, single-subject, and short-term programs. In this connection, 424 academic cadres cooperated with units of this university, and so far 11 million tomans from the imam of the nation and the Muslim people, and in addition to non-cash aid, 15 million tomans in cash assistance have been given to this university. We also have obtained around 27 million tomans in current expenses, allocated to monthly stipends for students.³ There was also a report specially submitted to the Imam, may God lengthen his life, saying: At the present time the Free Islamic University has branches in 28 municipalities, and the number of students in degree programs at this university last year was 8,000. In the current year the number is 30,000. Likewise, last year there were 20,000 students studying individual subjects, and this year there are 40,000 such students. These students are studying in 34 of the various scientific fields.⁴

If the figures mentioned in the above interviews are totalled, we conclude that the number of students in the Free Islamic University for the coming academic year, which begins in Mehr of 1364 [23 Sep – 22 Oct 1985] is as follows:

Medical Students	Students in other Fields
2,500	1,750
Single-subject Students	Education and Training Instructors
40,000	10,000
Students from Previous years	Total
27,000	97,000

If we compute these figures on the basis of those presented especially to His Holiness the Imam, the number of students will be 8,000 students in degree programs, 20,000 students studying individual subjects, with a total number of 28,000 students studying individual subjects instead of 27,000, and an overall total of 98,000 instead of 97,000.

According to the same interview, credit for last year to administer 27,000 students, or 28,000 according to the other report and 424 academic cadres who are cooperating with the Free Islamic University (including 11 million tomans in aid from His Holiness the Imam, 15 million tomans in aid from the people, and 27 million tomans for stipends) was 53 million tomans.⁵ In order to clarify the level of credit for the Free Islamic University, in view of its 27,000 or 28,000 students and 424 academic cadres in comparison with the country's other universities, we refer to several universities, including Tehran University as the mother university, the universities of Shiraz, Mashhad, and Tabriz.

The Provinces of Fars, Khorasan, and East Azarbaijan were selected because the number of students in a single year⁶ is close to the 8,000 students in degree programs at the Free Islamic University, and official statistics on students for the years 1359 [21 March 1970 – 20 March 1971], 1360 [21 March 1981 – 20 March 1982], and 1361 [21 March 1982 – 20 March 1983] were not available for citation.

You will note that in Shiraz, for 7,288 students with a budget of 465 million tomans, in 1361 [21 March 1982 – 20 March 1983] there were 625 scientific cadres and 280 technical cadres helping with teaching. In Mashhad, for 9,477 students with 365 million tomans in credit there were 738 educational cadres and 201 technical cadres helping with the teaching. In Tahriz, for 7,582 students there were 696 educational cadres and 295 technical cadres helping with the teaching with a budget of 400 million tomans in 1361 [21 March 1982 – 20 March 1983]. On the other hand, the Free Islamic University with 27 or 28 thousand students in degree programs and studying individual subjects and 424 educational cadres, has 53 million tomans in credit.

If we now compare the figures for the two groups of the country's universities, the non-free Islamic!! universities and the Free Islamic University, we will be astonished and baffled. As a result the question will arise: First, why have we spent more than two billion tomans to train a total of 86,479 students (col. 1 Table Two), when the Free Islamic University spends only 53 million tomans to educate 27 or 28 thousand students? Second, which of the two sets of criteria operating in these two university groups, the non-free profligate universities and the free low-budget university, are suitable for the century we are living in? Third, based on the academic laws operating in the world, what is the average cost of educating a student? Is this figure nearer to that of the Free Islamic University (about 20,000 rials per person) or to what was spent at universities before and after the Islamic revolution? (For example, according to some reports, previously the cost of educating one medical student at the former Pahlavi University was 4,186,067 rials). Fourth, which of these two groups is being wasteful or excessive? Fifth, does this demand arise from individual differences in management ideas, or differences between outdated regional systems? Sixth, which of the two groups produce graduates with greater ability, and consequently do more useful work for society?

Aside from the educational aspects, the estimated existing resources needed by students, as listed by a professor in the first economic and cultural expansion program of the Islamic Republic of Iran are, in brief: Around 111,000 spaces for the bachelor's degree and above. In view of the number of students in the year the program began (1362 [21 March 1983 – 20 March 1984], 101,000 persons) and in view of the fact that the goal of the higher education department covered by the program is 15,000 students by 1366 [21 Mar 1987 – 20 Mar 1988], it appears that this department is faced with a shortage of about 40,000 spaces.

Based on initial computations, an average of 22 square meters of educational space must be created for each student. The minimum cost of each square meter of educational space is estimated at 68,180 rials, including the cost of the building, the facilities, and design costs. The total credit necessary to create 40,000 new educational spaces is around 60 billion rials.

University Dormitory Construction—Presently, around 12 percent of students (12,240 persons) have dormitories. In view of the general housing problem and the special problems of students in procuring suitable housing, and the effect of suitable housing on improving the quality of study, the goal is to complete 40,000 new dormitory beds by the end of the first plan. In order to achieve the above goal, an average of 17 square meters of dormitory space is planned for every student, at an estimated cost of 50,000 rials for each square meter. The total allocated credit for building new university dormitories during the first program is 34 billion rials.

Faculty Housing—During the first program 500 housing units are planned for the use of professors who are sent to deprived areas. The average cost per square meter for the construction of this housing is estimated at 5,500 rials. The total credit needed for faculty housing will thus be 3.03 billion rials.⁷

Of course, this bill was not actually passed, it was rejected, but it gives a picture of the needs of students and professors. Does the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education support housing for students and professors? The answer must be considered no, because based on reports from the Minister of Culture and Higher Education himself to the Majlis: We need dormitory space for 75,000 persons, of whom we have housed only 20,000. One professor wrote to me 'I am returning my entire salary to you. I don't want anything to cover my expenses. Come to this city and give me a room where I can live, study at night and teach during the day.'⁸ I see how easily problems may be solved at the level of talk, but at the level of practical reality, how difficult and unsettling it is, and would that the problem ends right there. Some time later another interview was held with a deputy Minister of Culture and Higher Education. He was asked: Recently an official of the Free Islamic University stated that graduates of the Free Islamic University will soon receive official diplomas from the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education. What is your view on this? He answered: Unfortunately, there is no truth to what was quoted yesterday in the newspapers from a Free Islamic University official, and so far there have been no discussions of any kind. It must also be noted that institutions are able to obtain certification of compliance with all regulations pertaining to teaching methods, educational content, teacher-student ratios, having the necessary educational resources and educational aids and welfare resources and other issues. In view of the rapid growth of the Free Islamic University, unfortunately I do not believe that they have met the minimum requirements in any area.

Therefore, in discussing the issues it must be carefully noted that the people must not delude themselves or be overly hopeful. I must stress anew that this ministry has received no communication from the Supreme Cultural Revolution Council on this.⁹ On Thursday 4/27/64 [18 July 1985] you could turn on the radio to hear the Majlis discussion. You could hear comments from Dr 'Abbas Sheibani, Majlis representative on the Islamic Council, an expert on the Health and Hygiene Commission, and Chief of the Medical Association, who said that the Free Islamic University does not have the resources to train medical students, but it attracts those interested in this field and lowers the level of medical knowledge. It must either make use of the country's existing resources that have to do with medical schools, which themselves suffer from shortages, or else obtain the necessary resources from some other place, which it cannot do. I told this previously to an official from this school, and told him of opposition from a number of Muslim physicians with an interest in the country. Even so, he paid no heed and issued an announcement over my severe objections. From the outset it was announced that this university would not issue

diplomas, and it is a crime to practice medicine without credentials. Those who wish to study there must realize that one person who will be following matters is me, and I will be paying close attention, because a person with no credentials has no right to practice medicine. ETTELA'AT, in no. 17643 of 27 Tir 1364 [18 July 1985] carried a large headline on page two saying "Dr Sheibani's answer to the Free Islamic University," where it said: It is a crime to practice medicine without credentials. Afterwards it explores the issue in depth.

The clever and intelligent youth of our society must impartially analyze these conflicting views. After hearing these clear views they must go to the radio and reconstruct what has been said and done there. What have they said and what have they done? Where are they ultimately going and what results are they achieving? The issue has another dimension as well. The counterrevolution is collecting these issues and presenting them with great skill, drawing conclusions with the extensive propaganda resources they have available, imparting despair and hopelessness to our innocent youth and their families. Is it not clear what the result of our inexperience will be? Is it not clear who will bear the responsibility for the evil and impotence-causing developments that will occur? Come and put forth your efforts for God, for the sanctity of the pure blood of the martyrs, out of respect for the bravery of all these soldiers of the revolution, and strive to improve the university studies of our youth, and in accordance with legal regulations, so that instead of 40,000 students we will have 60,000 or 70,000 students going to the universities. All university resources, which belong to all the people, should be fruitful. It has long been said that "One prosperous village is better than 100 ruined cities," and "A lamp that befits a home is forbidden in a mosque." We have hundreds of thousands of unemployed graduates in the country. Now you come and say that the university admission requirements is not possession of credentials or being of age. Tomorrow thousands of unqualified people will be applying to the oppressed government of the Islamic republic, and following them will be people from other countries. Brothers, the number of faculty members in the country's centers of higher education in 1358 [21 Mar 1979 – 20 Mar 1980] was 9,579. This figure had decreased to 6,179 people by 1361 [21 Mar 1982 – 20 Mar 1983].¹⁰ Even now, due to the shortage of specialist cadres, most of the universities make use of transient professors or retired or professionally employed teachers, and this is in cities with good climactic conditions. The obligation of the deprived areas is obvious. Zahedan, for example, is planning to establish training programs for medicine, civil engineering, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, journeyman industrial technicians, sports, computers, chemistry, management, and agriculture, and this may have been accomplished.

Brothers who have come of legal age, if educated, will find another way to continue their scientific research. If their minds stop working, if self-interest and politics take the place of study and research, if the quest for credentials takes the place of inquiry and research, and if the institutions of higher learning do not work officially to exalt scientific values, there will be a catastrophe.

Take a look at the streets and see with your own eyes the vulnerability, the vagrancy, and the pitiful state of most of these people, and I'm talking about young high school graduates. Our new republic has suffered much due to the pursuit of personal interests, and enough is enough. Respect the law and carry it out. Avoid the epidemic of painting scenarios, for it is a polytheist enemy for our great revolution. Make use of the ideas of those who care for this revolution, those with university teaching experience, and the seminaries which have reached the level of authoritative competence and whose sincerity and genuineness are not subject to any doubt or hesitation, in order to save the lost youth of our Islamic nation from this confusion. It has been said in the press and in various ways, "Events are in your hands." Understand the young people today, not tomorrow.

Table One,¹¹ Figures in Thousands of Rials

Classification Number	Name	Credit in 1359 [21 Mar 1980 – 20 Mar 1981]	Credit in 1360 [21 Mar 1981 – 20 Mar 1982]	Credit in 1361 [21 Mar 1982 – 20 Mar 1983]
114,500	Tehran University	11,140,381	12,500,000	11,000,000
115,100	Shiraz University	4,606,559	4,745,500	4,650,000
115,500	Mashhad University	3,300,000	3,490,000	3,650,000
116,000	Tabriz University	3,197,740	3,872,500	4,000,000

Table Two. Students, Graduates, Faculty. Universities, by Province, Academic Year 1362 – 1363 [1983–1984]

Province	Students at end of Azar 1362 [21 Dec 1983]			Graduates 1362 [Fall 1983]			Faculty at end of Azar 1362 [21 Dec 1983]			Technical Educational Faculty at end of Azar 1362 [21 Dec 1983]		
	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls
Tehran	62,134	40,553	21,579	3,154	1,817	1,337	6,111	4,988	1,123	850	616	234
Fars	7,288	4,840	2,448	369	205	164	625	547	78	280	173	107
Khorasan	9,477	6,712	2,765	425	251	174	738	621	117	201	130	71
East Azarbaijan	7,582	5,677	1,905	253	154	99	696	624	72	295	283	12

Footnotes

¹ETTELA'AT 17507, 3 Bahman 63 [23 Jan 1984], pp. 13, 15.

²KEYHAN 12474, 27 Khordad 1364 [17 June 1985], p. 2.

³KEYHAN 12475, 28 Khordad 1364 [18 June 1985].

⁴KEYHAN 12497, 25 Tir 1364 [16 July 1985], p. 2.

⁵Budget Bill for 1361 [21 March 1982 – 20 March 1983], Plan and Budget Organization, section four, pp. 18–22.

⁶Statistics Yearbook for 1362 [21 March 1983 – 20 March 1984], published 1363, p. 114.

⁷First Economic, Social, and Cultural Expansion of the Islamic Republic of Iran for 1362 – 1366 [20 Mar 1983 – 21 March 1987], Volume IV, Social Sections, pp. 12–20, 13–20.

⁸Ibid., No. 1.

⁹KEYHAN 12498, 4/26/64 [17 July 1985], p. 2.

¹⁰Mo'ahad, No. 8, pp. 1–20.

¹¹KEYHAN 12357, 26 Dey 1363 [16 January 1984]

9310
CSO: 4640/711

IRAN

GOODS, SERVICES PRICE INDEX DROPS

Tehran BURS in Persian 24 Jul 85 p 5

[Text] The Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran issued a report in which it studied the price index for goods and services in Iran's urban areas during Ordibehesht of 1364 [21 April - 21 May 1985].

According to this report, the price index for goods and services in Iran's urban areas during Ordibehesht of 1364 [21 April - 21 May 1985] dropped 1.4 percent from the previous month.

Compared to the same month in the previous year this indicator increased 4.1 percent.

In the first two months of the current year [21 March 21 May 1985] this indicator increased an average of 5.5 percent over the same period the previous year. The price index for goods and services, which increases noticeably every year in the month of Ordibehesht, decreased 1.4 percent during the month reported. This was mostly due to the decrease in the price of fresh fruits, and one other significant factor in the price index for goods and services in Iran's urban areas. In the meats group, the price of beef, which had increased severely in some cities, especially Tehran, due to the short supply and difficulty of procurement, decreased about two percent because of the relative increase in market supplies through the coordinated domestic slaughter plan. On the other hand, the price of domestic rice increased between one and two percent, and domestically-produced tea increased around three percent.

There was also a slight increase in food prices in restaurants and public places due to the continued increase in rice prices. However, there were no significant changes in the prices of grains, eggs, milk products, dried fruits, sugar cubes, sugar and sugar products, some kinds of oil, pickles, chutney, and various kinds of cigarettes. Another factor which figured into the change in the Ordibehesht indicator was the relative stability of the non-food products group. Among the goods making up this group, the indicator for the clothing group decreased 50 percent. The major part of that was caused by the four percent decrease in the price of cotton cloth, and the slight decrease in the prices of ready-made clothing and goods made from woven fabrics. In the housing and fuels group, the seasonal increase in wages for construction workers was very small, but the prices of cement, jute, and glass went up while the prices for bricks and some other construction materials decreased in price.

In the home furnishings group, whose prices are mostly subject to the fluctuations of the free market, there was approximately a one percent decrease in price. Decreases in the prices of carpets, kitchen utensils and wares were the most important factors in the decline of this indicator. In the drugs and health care groups, due to the relative stability in price of drugs,

freight, and communications, there were relatively significant price increases for some items. Among the major items in this group with price increases, passenger cars must be mentioned, which had a 1.5 percent increase after several months of no change in price. The prices for a number of automobile parts and mechanic's tools were at a significantly higher level than in the previous month.

For the month reported, there were also increases in the prices of electronic voice communications equipment, photographic film, and decorations, but there was a sharp drop in the price of flowers due to the seasonal market abundance. Likewise, there was approximately a two percent decrease in the price of gold coins.

Compared to the month of Ordibehesht last year, increases in price were four percent for the food group, seven percent for tobacco, three percent for clothing, four percent for construction materials, six percent for construction services, 14 percent for residential rentals, nine percent for drugs and health care, 14 percent for recreation and education, and 22 percent for personal expenses. However, in the home furnishings, goods and services group there was a five percent decrease. The price of gold coins decreased 17 percent, while the costs of urban transportation and travel remained approximately the same.

9310

CSO: 4640/709

IRAN

AGRICULTURE SAID LAGGING BEHIND SELF-SUFFICIENCY GOALS

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 28 Aug 85 p 2

[Text]

TEHRAN, Aug. 26 (Kayhan) According to data from the Statistics Center of Iran, the share of consumer items in the country's total number of imports has been increasing in recent years. The fact that most imported consumer goods are agricultural products indicates that the country is still far behind its goals with regard to agricultural self-sufficiency.

Careful agricultural planning is needed in order to increase the total area of the cultivated lands nationwide and rise the level of production. Iran is generally considered a dry country, but there are vast unexplored agricultural potentials in it. Each year a considerable amount of water wastage has damaged certain lands as well as residential areas. Underground water sources also are not being used to the optimum degree. Experts say that agriculture may develop horizontally or vertically. For horizontal development the amount of cultivated land will rise through providing water, landscaping and other preparation for farming. In vertical development, one tries to increase total output in each hectare of land by educating farmers on the

better use of machinery, fertilizer, pesticides and seeds.

Lack of knowledge about the real problems of agriculture and also insufficient planning has resulted in the reduction of total cultivated hectareage, especially with regard to strategic goods. According to the statistics center the total area under cultivation for wheat was 959,000 hectares in 1982 which is 266,520 hectares less as compared to the year 1973. During the same years, the total area under cultivation for cotton also was reduced by 150,000 hectares. Experts believe that reduction in cultivated areas undoubtedly leads to less production, because vertical development techniques are limited in scope and cannot compensate for the lessening of cultivated areas, especially in the short term.

Situation Improving

Minister of Agriculture Dr. Abbas-Ali Zali maintains that the situation is improving. In a recent interview he stated: "After the victory of the Islamic Revolution there was a sudden fall in total output of items such as sugar-cane and cotton which were cultivated over vast areas. However, we are now,

gradually compensating for those reductions. Total cotton cultivated lands in 1980 did not exceed 145,000 hectares. In 1984, 212,000 hectares were under cotton cultivation, and the number is still rising. There also was a vertical improvement with regard to cotton. In the years 1979 and 1980 the output was 1,400 kilos of cotton per hectare, while currently it exceeds 6,100 kilos.

"As far as cereals are concerned, we produced 188,800 tons before the Islamic Revolution, while we are now producing more than 290,000 tons. Also, we had a relatively good increase in the output of some other products, like fruits and vegetables. Despite all the problems, we have succeeded in ending the stagnation of agriculture. This was made possible only through the efforts of the farmers and the services that government made available to them.

Quantity, Quality Not Sufficient

"For the development of agriculture, it is not enough only to concentrate on quantitative and qualitative betterment of farm products. One has also to try to create a better living environment for farmers. There is no doubt that a more healthy environment and improved nutrition for farmers would lead to better production. Accordingly, more attention should

be paid to the basic needs of the villages such as sanitation, purified water, facilities for good nutrition, education, and fighting poverty.

"At the moment drinking water in many villages is infected with various viruses and microbes. In 1983, there were 3,598 village sanitation centers throughout the country. Considering that about half of the 42 million Iranians live in villages, the number of these sanitation centers is hardly enough. Experts believe that improved living conditions are needed in villages in order to decrease migration to the cities which is currently resulting in the villages losing a great deal of their most active productive forces and creating problems in the cities".

Minister of Construction Jihad, Bijan Zanganeh said: "Among all village development programs, Construction Jihad emphasizes increasing agricultural production. We believe that if we increase production, the villagers will earn more income and naturally improve their living standards. If the villagers benefit from a better income, they would also invest more in production and help reduce foreign imports."

Some experts believe, light industries with unsophisticated technologies operating on local raw materials may help increase the villagers income and stop their migrat-

ing to the cities. Dr. Zali agrees with this proposition. He holds that processing industries should be concentrated in production areas. For example according to him spinning and textile factories must be erected in cotton producing areas.

Plans of Construction Jihad

Last year the Ministry of Construction Jihad implemented two plans aimed at increasing production on dry farmed lands. The first plan centered around educating farmers to pre-cultivation measures for better output, such as cleaning and disinfecting seeds. The second plan concentrated on post-cultivation steps, e.g., the use of fertilizer and pesticides. "Despite difficulties arising from the fact that the plan was unprecedented, and also despite the shortage of rainfall," the minister of Construction Jihad says: "The plan was a success. In some regions we got up to 2.5 tons of yield in one hectare."

The Ministry of Construction Jihad also has another plan which seeks to improve soil quality in dry-farming lands through better plowing methods. The above plans were operational over 1.2 million hectares last year. According to a decision taken by the Majlis, this year those plans will be implemented over a total area of 2.5 million hectares.

IRAN

AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS DOUBLED DURING FIRST THREE MONTHS

Tehran BURS in Persian 29 Jul 85 pp 1-2

[Text] According to the Minister of Agriculture, despite existing problems in some provinces, crop production in a great many of the country's provinces was good, through the efforts of farmers and additional services from the government. He added: In the current agricultural year the production of wheat has increased in most provinces. In this connection, farmers have sold the government 800,000 tons of wheat this year, compared to 460,000 tons sold last year. It is anticipated that by the end of the harvest this figure will increase to 1.5 million tons.

Dr Zali, who was speaking with reporters, also said: Despite a 15- to 17-percent increase in cotton production in 1363 [21 March 1984 – 20 March 1985] over the year 1362 [21 March 1983 – 20 March 1984], there were problems due to the failure to sell the entire cotton crop. In the current year [21 March 1985 – 20 March 1986], however, efforts have been made to remove these problems through the establishment of purchase guarantees and reducing the importation of synthetic fibers by textile mills.

According to the Minister of Agriculture, last year there were also problems due to the failure to sell the entire rice crop, but in the current year this problem has been solved through the reduction of rice imports into the country and the activities of the Rural Cooperatives Organization and the Ministry of Commerce in the purchase of rice from growers. He said: Last year fruitful rice crops were cultivated on 80,000 hectares of land.

The Minister of Agriculture added: The increased cultivation of grasses for feed is of concern to the country's agricultural officials, in order to make available the feed needed for animal husbandry, as well as to create a market for production and sales for farmers. He said: In order to create an incentive for farmers to grow feed, feed imports have been reduced by 400,000 tons in the current year. At the same time, livestock and poultry keepers have been authorized to sell the extra feed they produce on the free market.

Dr Zali said: The production of sugar beets in 1363 [21 March 1984 – 20 March 1985] was close to that of 1362 [21 March 1983 – 20 March 1984], and it is anticipated, with the adoption of the necessary measures and regulations approved by the Economic Council this figure will increase. Among these measures, he mentioned the production of 50 kilograms of waste for every ton of sugar beets, as opposed to the 25 kilograms produced previously, authorization for factories to sell production sugar beets, as well as the procurement of the necessary machines for harvesting this crop.

He also said: In order to procure the cattle needed by cattlemen, the Ministry of Agriculture has imported a quantity of cattle. Likewise, with the implementation of plans, efforts have been made to alleviate difficulties for cattlemen by procuring cattle and feed.

Likewise, in dealing with the difficulties of the fisheries, policies have been established which can lead to increased popular participation and activity in this area. Among these policies is the uncontrolled sale and purchase of fish in the south of the country.

He then added: The above policies are being considered in a great many other areas, in order to activate the private and cooperative sectors in these areas. Steps have already been taken in this area in some provinces, such as Khorasan and Esfahan.

9310
CSO: 4640/709

PAKISTAN

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES: MANIPULATION BY ZIA EXAMINED

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 22 Aug 85 pp 9-12

[Article by Malik Mohammad Jafar]

[Text]

A FEW WORDS may be said in explanation of the caption for this short discussion. Of course, at present there is no constitutional document in Pakistan having its official name as the 1985 Constitution. But looking at the substance of the matter, and bearing in mind all the basic and major changes introduced by the so-called "The Revival of the Constitution of 1973 Order, 1985," the only proper name by which this Order, and the constitutional structure that it contains, can be described is "The 1985 Constitution", or, still better, it may be termed as an amalgamation of all the ad hoc Martial Law constitutional experiments of the years 1977-85. And if you have a preference for names of personalities, then we can call it the "Zia Constitution", like we used to say "Ayub Constitution". But, perhaps, the maker of the '85 Constitution may himself not like that, because if he has learnt anything from our past history of constitution - making, which is worth-learning, then he may have learnt this that though Ayub Khan may have had his good points, his Constitution was not amongst these. And the future generations in Pakistan may, perhaps, know him by the name of a public park in Rawalpindi which he did not make, and not by the Constitution that he did make.

Unrealistic consensus

Now quite a remarkable phenomenon about this matter is that the two main contenders for political power, one having it and the other trying for it, the CMLA-President and the MRD, both appear to agree on one point, which is that the 1973 Constitution is still in existence and that it can be restored or revived. Let both sides be happy on the unanimity of views on this vital point. One would wish to join this consensus, but that would be possible only if one were completely to shut one's eyes to the glaring objective realities of the total political situation in the country.

So much has been said and written by very competent authorities on the various aspects of the instant constitutional experiment of the year that it is hardly worthwhile to add anything on the subject. Independent political thinkers in the country are almost unanimous in their view that the 1973 Constitution has not at all been revived, that there is no chance of its being revived by the implementation of the so-called Revival Order 1985, that this Order is absolutely undemocratic, unworkable and harmful for the future political stability of the country and even for its integrity and national cohesion, and that it is meant only to perpetuate autocratic rule under one guise or

another. This is the general serious political thinking, and the only exception is of those few who, in one form of another, have a vested interest in supporting the constitutional structure set up under the Revival Order, whether or not it leads to any genuine democracy.

Article 2-A

Now, our purpose at present is a limited one. It is to examine the import and implications, if any, of one particular amendment made in the 1973 Constitution, by the Revival Order that we are considering. By this amendment a new Article (2A) has been inserted, which purports to make the Objectives Resolution form part of what is called the 'substantive provisions' of the Constitution. This is supposed to have been done by adding an Annexure after the existing Article 280 of the Constitution. This Annexure is a reproduction of the whole of the text of the Objectives Resolution.

It would be recalled that General Ziaul Haq, when explaining the salient features of his Revival Order, made quite a flourish of this achievement of his that, by an amendment of the 1973 Constitution, he has made the principles contained in the Objectives Resolution a substantive part of the constitutional document, while in all the previous Constitutions the Resolution was accorded a position of much less importance, as its main principles were included only in the preambles of those Constitutions and a preamble, whether of a constitution or any other enactment, is, admittedly, not a substantive provision of the Statute in question.

A mere Resolution

Before we examine the matter in some detail, one thing would at once strike our attention. How is it that a mere Resolution passed in 1949, expressing the wishes and intentions of a Constituent Assembly, indirectly elected and of doubtful representative character, has assumed such great importance in the year

1985, when that Assembly never actually passed any Constitution and it is only a matter of conjecture as to in what form and to what extent, if at all, it would have included the principles of the Resolution in the Constitution which that Assembly was supposed to make but which it never made, during the period of about five years of its life after 1949?

The answer to this is quite simple. General Ziaul Haq has now, for a considerable time, been making his stand on democracy quite clear and, if we may add, more and more clear with the passage of time. To start with he was against the Westminster form of parliamentary democracy because, in his view, this did not suit the political situation in Pakistan, was not in keeping with the genius of the people and was also in conflict with the spirit of Islamic teachings. For these reasons, he appeared for some time to be toying with the idea of having a presidential form of constitutional set-up in Pakistan. At that stage this idea got due projection through the official media. It was claimed that a presidential system was more in keeping with the religion of Islam and Muslim traditions of State polity as were to be found in other Muslim societies, mostly of the past but which are extant even now in some Muslim countries, and we could have them as a model for our own constitutional system. The President was able, naturally with the help of his advisers and research-makers, to lay hand on a casual observation reported to have been made by Mr. Jinnah some time before Independence and the subject under discussion was whether Mr. Jinnah would occupy the office of Governor-General or that of Prime Minister, in the State of Pakistan which then was shortly to come into being. The claim was that particular remark of Mr. Jinnah would lend support to a presidential system as against a parliamentary one. As a matter of fact this reported observation of Mr. Jinnah had no relevance to the purpose for which it was being pressed into service. In practice, the position of Quaid-i-

Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah in the new State of Pakistan would not have been any the less powerful, authoritative and effective even if he had chosen not to have for himself any constitutional office. At least this is what Mr. Jinnah appeared to have believed at the time that he is said to have made that particular remark, in answer to a suggestion of Lord Mountbatten.

But General Ziaul Haq did not remain happy with the idea of a presidential system for long. And quite obviously he could not, because a presidential system can also be quite democratic.

A new system

After this a new system was evolved, discovered or invented, whatever. For this a new name, 'Shooracracy' had also to be coined. In implementation of it a Shoora was also nominated to act as pioneers in the working of Shooracracy. But the President was disappointed, and rightly. The members of the nominated Shoora began to 'misconduct' themselves, in as much as they started taking independent decisions on political crises, which was hardly their business. Therefore the idea of Shooracracy had also to be largely abandoned, and that before the word could become a part of our political vocabulary.

It appears that, all along, the CMLA-President was in search of a philosophical basis for denial of democracy, at least in the sense in which that word is universally understood in the modern world. He could have easily found such a philosophy even in a popular book like "The Story of Philosophy", because there is no conceivable idea, however preposterous it may be, in support of which you cannot get the views of some philosopher in the world. But this would not have done for General Ziaul Haq's purpose. There must be something solid, theology-oriented, sanctimonious, of emotional and sentimental appeal to the people, preferably indigenous and having the blessing of some respected leader, so that it can serve as a philosophical foundation to sustain autocracy, and to get away with it.

Finally, General Ziaul Haq was successful in his quest and a principle of political philosophy, satisfying, to a large measure, the qualities that we have mentioned above was discovered, as stated in no less prestigious a document than the Objectives Resolution, adopted by the first Constituent Assembly of Pakistan, in the year 1949.

The omitted words

But then there was a big hurdle to overcome before the Objectives Resolution could serve a 'useful' purpose. As stated earlier, the main principles contained in the Resolution had always been reproduced as a preamble in all the Constitutions that had been made and unmade in Pakistan and this was also true of the 1973 Constitution, which General Ziaul Haq professed to revive under his Revival Order of 1985. The problem was that while other parts of the Objectives Resolution were, with some important additions, included in the Preamble of the 1973 Constitution, a few words were also omitted. And the omissions covered exactly those words which the CMLA-President needed, in support of his political philosophy. These words are contained in the first paragraph of the Objectives Resolution. In explanation of the matter we would quote the whole of the first paragraph of the Resolution as also the corresponding para of the Preamble and, we hope, that would make the point clear.

First the Resolution :

"Whereas sovereignty over the entire universe belongs to God Almighty alone and the authority which *He has delegated to the State of Pakistan* through its people, for being exercised within the limits prescribed by Him, is a sacred trust."

And in the Preamble the first para is in these words :

"Whereas the sovereignty over the entire universe belongs to Almighty Allah alone, and the authority to be exercised by the people of Pakistan within the limits presented by Him is a sacred trust;"

Significant departures

It would be noticed that apart from some small change of expression, including the substitution of the word 'Allah' for 'God', which does not make any difference (or does it?), there are two significant departures in the Preamble from what was stated in the Resolution. First, the idea of delegation of authority by God Almighty is omitted and, second, the concept of 'State' being the repository of political authority (as a delegatee from the Almighty God) is done away with.

These are exactly the two concepts, the idea of delegation of authority by God and the vesting of the authority in the State (regardless of whether or not that State represented the wishes of the people) rather than the people themselves, which were of any value for the political philosophy of General Ziaul Haq, which he has been propounding quite openly. In short the philosophy is that in Islam people cannot be considered as sovereign and this sovereignty (in the political sense) is the very basis of the modern concept of democracy, whether it be presidential, parliamentary or in any other form, the basic requirement being that the people of a State are absolute masters of their affairs. No checks can be imposed on their freedom to have any system of government, freely to choose their representatives to run the government on their behalf and to have any form of economy that they choose and so on.

Divine Right

One has to have some initiation in the subtleties both of constitutional law and theology to appreciate the great difference that these two changes embody. But the matter can also be put in simple terms. The concept of delegation of authority by God Almighty is not a new idea. It is as old as the institution of despotic rule, under whatever name it may have been. Our doctrines of Divine Right of Kings and the Sultan being Zill-e-Ilahi

are but manifestations of the same religio-political philosophy. But it is a very dangerous idea. It makes nonsense of all principles of democracy. People, who are but humble mortals, just cannot have any say in the delegation of the power of God Almighty to whomsoever He wills. It may be to a group or to a single individual. There is no point in saying that one ruler is good another is bad. That would be questioning the wisdom of the choice by the Delegator of his delegatee. All rulers throughout the world, and in all ages, must be counted as good, for each one of them was chosen by God Almighty, the Omniscient, the Omnipotent.

1949 context

The report of the proceedings of the Constituent Assembly of the debate on the Objectives Resolution provides an interesting and instructive material for a study of certain aspects of the political and constitutional history of Pakistan, relating to this period. It is revealed by these proceedings that while the Muslim League which then, in political terms, meant the person of Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, was bent upon getting the Resolution passed as quickly as possible, and exactly in the same form in which it had been introduced, the Opposition put up a tenacious struggle to have the Resolution amended with a view to omitting or modifying some of its patently undemocratic and illogical provisions. Both sides were fully conscious of the import and implications of the principles contained in the Objectives Resolution. Through this Resolution, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan would appear to be aiming at providing a sanctimonious philosophical foundation for his planned autocratic rule, through his Muslim League, which had by then become a tottering political organisation and, seemingly, the Muslim League was intended to continue in power for all time to come. The Opposition in the Assembly, on their part, could also see the great potential danger to democracy that the Resolution involved. Of course, the Opposition,

from the beginning had no earthly chance of success in this effort.

Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, and his Muslim League had made themselves impervious against all appeals of sanity and reason.

Dutta's warning

By way of an illustration of the general thinking of the Opposition on the basic political concepts which the Objectives Resolution purported to establish and advance, particularly the idea of delegation of authority, to manage the affairs of a country, by God and the delegatee being the 'State' rather than the people of that State, and the fears that the Opposition Members entertained if these two principles were adopted as the basic ideals of State polity in Pakistan, we produce a short extract from the speech of Mr. Bhupindra Kumar Dutta which he made while commenting on one of the amendments to the Resolution :

"Sir, I feel — I have every reason to believe — that were this Resolution to come before this House within the life-time of the great creator of Pakistan, the Quaid-e-Azam, it would not have come in its present shape.

"Sir, we are framing a Constitution, which will outlive us, may be, even many of our succeeding generations. So, as far as human reason can guard against it, let us not do anything here today that may consign our future generations to the furies of a blind destiny. May be, may God forbid it, but some day, perhaps even within our lifetime — extremely troublesome times as we live in — a political adventurer, a Yanshikai, a Bachha-Sakao may find a chance to impose his will and authority on this State. He may find a justification for it in this Preamble. To the people of our State, he may justify his claim on the clause in it that refers to the delegation of the Almighty's authority to the State through its people. He has only to forge a further link and get it delegated through the State

to himself and declare that he is the Ruler of Pakistan, anointed by his Maker."

"Besides, Sir, shall we not be prudent to avoid the deification of the State that the Preamble implies? It meant history, Hitler did it. But I am sure, Sir, the Honourable Mover of the Resolution found no merit in that act of Hitler's. Nor the world very much appreciated it. And at the hour when we have come so very near to the rest of the world, we, in this House, shall not be wise to ignore it."

The hard way

This advice and warning had come in the year 1949, but we would pay no heed to it, because, may be, if for no other reason, it had come from a non-Muslim. It took some 24 years for our politicians to accept the wisdom of what is stated in the above-quoted extract from the speech of a member of our first Constituent Assembly. And it was not only the time that we took in learning, but we learnt it the hard way. We had to go through numerous political and constitutional crises and upheavals, even one which had the result of cutting asunder the two Wings of our dear motherland, before we could be persuaded to take a rational stand on constitutional issues. It was then that, for the first time in the history of Pakistan, a National Assembly elected on a popular vote (though, alas, representing only one half of the country), made with full national consensus, a democratic, parliamentary and federal Constitution for the State of Pakistan. In this Constitution the Principles enunciated in the Objectives Resolution of 1949 were incorporated as a Preamble, but with the omission of the 'delegation' concept and also the vesting of authority in the State as distinguished from the people. Let us make it clear that this departure from the Objectives Resolution was not at all accidental or an oversight. The members were fully aware of what they were deciding and the decision was taken after long and serious

discussion and deliberation amongst members which resulted in a general agreement on the various provisions of the Constitutional Bill, including its Preamble.

We may here also quote the text of what is declared in the second part of the Preamble of the 1973 Constitution (the first part being substantially a reproduction of the preambles of the previous Constitutions) which, fortunately, has not been changed by the Revival Order of 1985 :

"We, the people of Pakistan, conscious of our responsibility before Almighty Allah and men; "Cognisant of the sacrifices made by the people in the cause of Pakistan; "Faithful to the declaration made by the Founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, that Pakistan would be a democratic State based on Islamic principles of social justice; "Dedicated to the preservation of democracy achieved by the unremitting struggle of the people against oppression and tyranny; "Inspired by the resolve to protect our national and political unity and solidarity by creating an egalitarian society through a new order; "Do hereby, through our representatives in the National Assembly,

adopt, enact and give to ourselves, this Constitution."

Restore 1973 basic law

Here, with respect one may pose a question. Will this powerful authoritative declaration — "We, the people of Pakistan . . . do hereby . . . give to ourselves, this Constitution" — as an introduction, Preamble and formulation of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan made in 1973, and, we may point out, the validity of this declaration is admitted even under the Revival Order, because it is left intact to form part of the Preamble to the Constitution — therefore, we ask this, how do you fit in, in this Constitution the changes introduced by a single person who, whatever his other status may be, cannot claim to be 'the people of Pakistan' nor their 'representative', in the sense in which the Constitution-makers of 1973 were. The introduction of the 1977-85 so-called amendments is calculated greatly to destroy the sanctity which should be attached to a Constitution. To restore respect to the Constitution, which should properly belong to it, nothing less than to withdraw all these amendments and to re-introduce the Constitution in the form in which it existed on 5th of July 1977, would do.

CSO: 4600/628

PAKISTAN

LIST OF 'PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE' RELEASED

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 29 Aug 85 pp 29-31

[Article by Emzed]

[Text]

THE POLITICAL Prisoners Release and Relief Committee has released a fresh list of 326 'prisoners of conscience' in the country. Of these, 135 are in Sind, 112 in the Punjab, 72 in the NWFP and seven in Baluchistan.

Of the incarcerated political workers, 94 are either facing trial or are under detention. Of them 81 are in Sind, and seven each in Baluchistan and the Punjab. In Baluchistan, all seven political prisoners are detenus in Quetta and Mach jail. Hazrat Gul has been under detention at Mach Jail since 1982, while Dr. Akbar and a student leader of Azad Kashmir, Raja Mohammad Idrees, have been in Quetta Jail since 1983. Nasir Baluch in Quetta Jail and Kalu Mir and Mir Haji in Mach Jail have been in prison since early 1984. Maulana Qamar Din of Kalat has been in Quetta Jail since January, 1985. The provincial administration has not charge-sheeted Raja Mohammad Idrees.

Camp Jail, Lahore

All the seven under-trial political prisoners in the Punjab are at the Camp Jail, Lahore. They include Mohammad Bashir who is 75. Sufi Iqbal and Faiz Mohammad (an engineer by profession) are facing trial under MLR 13 and 33 since 1981. The others are Ghulam Abbas, Abrar Husain, Syed Baqar Husain and Dilshad Shah.

Of the detenus in Sind, Mr. Rasool Bux Palejo has been under detention for the longest period. The Sind leader was arrested in 1979 and was kept in different jails of the province as well as at Kot Lakhpat Jail, Lahore. At present he is at the Landhi jail, Karachi, and is reported to be seriously ill. Another Sind leader, Fazil Rahu has been behind bars since 1983. He is under detention at Central Jail, Sukkur. Prof. Jamal Naqvi, who is also ill, has been undertrial since June 30, 1980, and Mustafa Baluch since September 1, 1981. The detenus facing trial since 1983 are: Hanif Ahmad Pate, Maulana Jawwad, Sher Ahmad Barohi, Mumtaz Shari, Mohammad Sadiq, Zahir Husain, Ahmad Khan and Noor Mohammad Brohi. All are in Central Jail Karachi.

Mohammad Qasim Pather has been under detention since 1983 in the Central Jail, Khairpur. Fourteen others in the same jail are facing trial — seven of them since 1983 and the rest since early 1985. Mohammad Noor Faqir Shaito, Sobhan Dharejo, Mir Wahid Bux, Ghulam Jatoi, Imam Bux Jatoi, Mohammad Safdar Jatoi and Masroor Ahsan are facing trial since 1983 and Mir Gul, Dildar Husain, Abdul Qayyum, Taj Mohammad, Maula Bux, Mofhat Abro and Manther Ali Jatoi since 1985.

Sukkur Jail

In the Central Jail, Sukkur, the number of under-trial prisoners is 12. Of them, Jahangir Pajhan, Shabir Sheikh, Bashir Sheikh, Hakeem Ali Chandio, Niaz Bhatti, Manzoor Chandio, Yar Mohammad Mehr, Barookoo Hakroo and Parral Sheikh, are facing trial since 1983, while Shahjehan Punharal, Mehram Jatoi and Saiful Maula since 1984. There are 28 political workers facing trial in the Central Jail, Hyderabad. They are: Iqbal Shah, Arbab Khaskhaili, Leeha Ram Lahono, Latif Mashar, Iqbal Ahmad Tonoi, Anwar Kirmani, Obeidullah Palak, Raza Mohammad Chandio, Mohammad Saif Jhakrani, Nazir Tonoi, Ibrahim Soho, Mohammad Ramzan Shoro, Mohammad Ali Brohi, Gul Mohammad Jhakrani, Omar Din Zardari, Ghulam Sarwar Khushak, Ashfi Manzoor Gopang, Dado Mehri, Nawaz Khoso, Nasir Soho, Ali Haider Bhatti, Ijaz Husain Leghari, Abdul Sattar Moro, Abdul Wahab Bhayo, Aziz Phull, Abdul Qadir Jarwar, Sikandar Ali Mahrani and Hatim Ali Sheikh.

In the District Jail, Hyderabad, there are five detenus. They have been in prison since 1983. They are: Sher Ahmad Rind, Ayub Umer, Mohyuddin, Keerano, Ayub Rind and Jabbar Rind.

Nawabshah

The ten under-trial prisoners since 1983 at the District Jail, Nawabshah are: Syed Mithal Shah, Bux Ali Chandio, Ghani Bux Malkani, Haroon Korani, Mohammad Asghar, Niral Bhatti, Saif Chandio, Ghulam Nadir, Ibrahim Jatoi and Ghulam Nabi Jatoi.

Mohammad Ibrahim Leghari in judicial lock-up, Badin, Bhegan Khaskhaili in the District Jail Larkana and Mohammad Ali Jhakrani in the District Jail, Jacobabad, have been under trial since 1983.

Of the 232 convicts in different cases, Javed Iqbal Moazzam and Yusuf Khatak (Lahore) have been sentenced to 50 years' rigorous imprisonment each. The former is at the Central Jail, Sahiwal, while the latter is at the Central Jail, Mianwali.

Al-Zulfikar, Libya cases

In the Punjab 54 political workers are serving life terms in the 'al-Zulfikar' case. They were convicted by a special military court and are at present in the Central Jails at Sahiwal, Bahawalpur and Mianwali. One of them, Sufi Mohammad Amin, is serving a 28-year term at the Kot Lakhpat Jail, Lahore. Seven of the convicts in the Libya Conspiracy Case are in different jails. They are: Rana Mansha, Kamran Rizvi, Zahoor Ahmad, Zawwar Husain Malik, Tariq Khurshid, Mansoor Ahmad and Nazir Baluch. The last two are facing trial at Rawalpindi Jail as approvers in the case. Rana Mansha, Zahoor Ahmad and Zawwar Husain Malik have been sentenced to life imprisonment. Kamran Rizvi has been sentenced to 35 years and Tariq Khurshid to 25 years' R.I. Three political workers, Baba Sharif, Munir Ahmad and Ghulam Rasool, were sentenced to life terms by a special military court in the Chichawatni Railway Track Case. They are in the Sahiwal Jail.

Syed Ali Haider Shah (Larkana) and Islamuddin (Karachi) are facing trial under Section 302, PPC, in the Jelhum jail by a special military court. Of them Syed Ali Haider Shah, who has already been sentenced to 25 years in prison in another case, was among those who were sent abroad on the demand of the PIA plane hijackers in March, 1980, and later returned. Another convict in the jail is Jamil Abbasi (Rawalpindi) who is serving a term of 14 years R.I.

Sahiwal's 'distinction'

In the Central Jail Sahiwal, where the highest number of political prisoners (17) in the Punjab are lodged, those who are undergoing life imprisonment are: Mohammad Ishaq, Hamid Saeed Pia, Aurangzeb and Sheikh Abdul Qayyum (Rawalpindi), Talat Jafari and Mohammad Amjad (Sialkot), Baba Sabir Ahmad (Bhakkar), Saleem Abbas (Daska), Iqbal Pervaiz Masih (Faisalabad) and Nasim Iqbal, Ikhlaq Shah and Mohammad Boota Khokhar (Lahore). Maj.-Gen. Tajammal

Husain (14 years R.I.) and Mohammad Akram Khan (Lahore) with two years R.I. are also in the same jail.

In the new Central Jail, Multan, Masood Iqbal, and Mohammad Sabir Husain (Lahore) and Malik Atiqur Rehman (Sialkot) are undergoing terms of 43 years R.I., while Mian Mohammad Jahangir, advocate (Lahore) is serving a 39-year term. Javaid Akhtar, Masood Akhtar, Hakim Ejaz Bhatti, (Lahore), Mohammad Anwar Bhatti, Mohammad Tahir, Asif Butt, Zahid Mahmood Butt, Arshad Mahmood, (Sialkot), Mehr Atta Mohammad and Hamid Niazi (Bhakkar) and Mohammad Riaz Sajid (Rawalpindi) are serving life terms. Riaz Shahid (Lahore) is serving a life term at the Central Jail, Faisalabad.

Zawwar Husain Malik, and Mohammad Rafiq Babar (Lahore), Naeem Akhtar and Mohammad Asghar (Islamabad), Their Bhatti (Khanpur), Razzaq Bejwa and Khan Mohammad (Rahimyar Khan), Mohammad Zubari Shad (Gujranwala and Rana Laseeq, Rana Farhat Ali, Abid Husain, Mohammad Yunas and Mohammad Azam Bhatti (Sialkot) are serving life terms at the Central Jail, Mianwali. Labour leader Mohammad Safi (Rawalpindi) is undergoing a 35 year term at the Central Jail, Bahawalpur, while Azam Butt (Faisalabad) and Mohammad Husain (Bahawalpur) are serving of 25-year terms in the same jail. Others in the jail undergoing life imprisonment are: Rafi Malik (Faisalabad), Hafiz Nusrat (Rahimyar Khan), Mohammad Asim Bhatti and Gull Mohammad (Gujranwala), Mohammad Sadiq (Daska) and Mohammad Saeed, Mohammad Sadiq and Ghulam Husain (Sialkot).

The NWFP

There are 19 convicts in the Central Jail, Haripur, serving terms ranging from 16 to 42 months. They are: Abdul Naeem (Swabi), Mir Ahmad, Jehangir Khan, Sohaib Saqib and Arif Kamal (Charsadda), Ghulam Ali, Iqbal Husain, Sabir Husain and Jafar Ali (Parachinar), Inam Khan and Jehangir Khan (Kohat), Masood Afridi and Ghazi

Gul (Khyber Agency), Mohammad Ikram (Lahore), Ijazul Haq (Karachi) and Noor Mohammad Shad, Kamran Haider Kiyani, Shah Gul and Lal Mohammad (Peshawar). Mohammad Ali is serving a four-year term and Iqbal Husain, Gul Husain, Mohammad Ghulam and Khadim Ali (All Parachinar) are serving three-year terms at the Central Jail, Dera Ismail Khan.

Peshawar Jail

There are 47 prisoners in the Central Jail Peshawar serving terms ranging from one to 25 years rigorous imprisonment. Of them, Aslam Ludhianvi, Rahim Tar Lehan Mohammad, Mir Waiz and Shah Rehman (Peshawar) have been sentenced to 25 years and an Afghan national, Mohammad Qasim, to 14 years. Noor Rehman (Hazara) follows with five years, Khalid Qureshi (Karachi), Rawan and Noor Mohammad (Malakand), Kamran Haider (Peshawar), Umar Dada (Swat), Mashooq Jan, Gul Badshah and Ismail Shah (Charsadda), and Mohammad Tahir Bhatti with four years; Bakhts Jan (Waziristan), Said Mohammad (Miran Shah), Gul Akbar Kaka (Aut Maut Mira), Mohammad Zada, Mir Ahmad Mirza, Mohabbat Khan, Rehm Dad, Sanober, Dil Mohammad, Ajab Gul and Zubair Shah (Charsadda), Mohammad Aslam and Akram Jan (Rawalpindi) Gul Jan and Ehsan Nabi (Malakand), Mir Ali Shah (Bannu), Syed Mohib Ali Shah and Ehsan Qureshi (Haripur), Sher Gul Master (Peshawar), Abdul Jabbar (Karachi), Nasir Butt (Sialkot) and Wali Mohammad with three years; Rustam Ali Butt (Gujranwala), Akram Khan (Peshawar), Ghulam Mustafa (Gujjar Khan), Mohammad Jan, Dost Mohammad and Mohammad Tahir (Charsadda) with two years and Zahid Husain (Parachinar), Ali Imam Shah (Kohat), Noor Rehman (Hazara) and Abrar Bunesi (Bunesi) with one year's rigorous imprisonment.

Sind convicts

The number of convicted political workers in the Central Jail, Karachi, is 24 who are undergoing imprison-

ment ranging from six months (and fine) to 25 years. Ehsan-ul-Haq Sherpao and Essa Baluch have been sentenced to 25 years each, followed by Ejaz Khan (15 years) Rasool Bux Baluch, Rafiq Ahmad Safi (14 years), Shahid Ali Rana, Mohammad Saleem Ansari, Mohsin Raza, and Saleem Moghul (10 years), and Shabbir Shair and Mohammad Kamal Warsi (Seven years). Those with sentences of less than one year, with fines from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 15,000, are Ali Ahmad Junejo, Kausar Hasan, Syed Kausar Husain Abidi, Rafiq Ahmad Siddiqi, Malik Nasir, Syed Shahid Haider, Usman Mandra, Yaqoob Hangora, Mahboob Husain, and Maula Bux. Mrs. Rubina Rukhsar Qureshi is serving a four year term. Ishaq Ahmad Kolachi has been sentenced to a three years in prison with a fine of Rs. 200,000 and 15 lashes.

Of the 16 convicts at the Central Jail, Khairpur, six are undergoing sentences of 25 years each. They are: Syed Sabir Ali Shah, Mohammad Suleman Sheikh Mohammad Arif Jalabani, Abdul Ghani Jatoi, Sikandar Baluch and Khalid Pirzada. Imdad Chandio, Sher Mohammad Mangroo and Rukhsar Ahmad Qureshi have been sentenced to seven years and 10 lashes each. Syed Pervaiz Ali Shah and Suresh Kumar were sentenced to one year and 10 lashes each while Faqir Iqbal Hasbani, Khawar Ali Jafri, Imdad Ali Shah, Abdul Jabbar and Mohammad Ayub Solangi have been sentenced to 3 to 9 months' R.I.

Latif Memon with 25 years, Mohammad Khan Solangi with seven years and Ashfaq Pathan with 30 months' imprisonment are in the Central Jail, Sukkur. Jam Saqi is undergoing 10 years' imprisonment at the Central Jail, Hyderabad. Syed Anwar Ali Shah, Malik Ayub and Saifullah Khalid have been sentenced to 25 years' imprisonment each. Three years R.I. with Rs. 20,000 as fine and 15 lashes each have been awarded Pir Saleem Sirhandi, Inayat Ali Jatyal, Mehrab Rajpar, Anwar Shahani, Barkat Barar, Nazir Solangi, Dahan Bhand, (a fine of Rs. 100,000) and Asghar Bhatti, Shamshan Parkash, Shabbir Lashari, Mahboob

Ali Qureshi, Mohammad Rehman and Shabbir Magsi are undergoing one year's R.I. They have also been fined Rs. 5,000 each.

Fresh list

The Political Prisoners' Release and Relief Committee also issued a fresh list of about 40 political workers sentenced to three years' rigorous imprisonment and confined in different jails in the Punjab. Agha Naveed, Abdul Haq, Zaman Butt, Islam Shah and Agha Moeen (Lahore), Tariq Dar and Lala Nazar Husain (Gujranwala), Shaukat Ali Rizvi (Islamabad) and Chaudhry Nadir Ali (Sialkot) are in the central Jail, Multan.

Mohammad Akram Khan, Javed Iqbal, Mohammad Sadiq Awan and Chaudhry Ghulam Qadir (Lahore), and Mohammad Sadiq Tarar (Sialkot) are in the Central Jail, Sahiwal, Sajjad Husain and Abdul Waheed Bokhari (Sialkot) in the Central Jail, Faisalabad, Tariq Nawaz Goraya (Daska) and Syed Ibrar Husain (Lahore) in the Kot Lakhpat Jail, Lahore. Syed Sarfraz Husain and Imtiaz Ahmad (Rawalpindi) in the Central Jail, Rawalpindi, and Hamid Manzoor Sheikh. Naveed Iqbal, Raja Naeem (Lahore), Nadir Khan (Sheikhupura), Tariq Shedai, (Gujranwala), Shahid Gogi (Faisalabad) and Dilshad Shad (Gojra) are in the Central Jail, Bahawalpur.

Treatment

Releasing the lists of political prisoners, Chaudhry Liaquat Husain Warrach, Secretary-General of the Committee, deplored the treatment being meted out to these 'prisoners of conscience' and urged the authorities to ensure the implementation of jail rules. According to him, some prisoners were being kept in chains even in their cells. Some of the prisoners had served their entire term as undertrials. However, their terms were being counted from the day they were convicted. "This is as illegal as it is unjust and inhuman. This means that a man sentenced to three years in prison is in fact

being forced to serve a five-year term."

Mr. Warriach said that political prisoners and undertrials were being denied proper medical care. Mr. Rasool Bux Palejo, detained since 1979, was suffering from disturbance of the body thermostat as he was feeling cold even in intense heat. Similarly, Mr. Fazil Rahu, another leader of the Pakistan Awami Tehrik, was extremely sick at the Sukkur Jail. Jam Saqi, Saleem Maghul and Prof. Jamal Naqvi in Sind Jails, Sufi Mohammad Amin, Zaman Butt, Hamid Niazi, Ejaz Bhatti, Agha Naveed, Kaniran Haider Rizvi, Rafi Malik, Altaf Ahmad Kiri, Baba

Shabbir Ahmad and Sheikh Abdul Qayyum in the Punjab and Aslam Ludhianvi, Ramazam Janbaz and Abdul Jabbar Khatak in the NWFP jails were suffering from various diseases.

Mr. Warraich described Syed Ali Haider Shah, a student leader from Larkana who was lodged at the central Jail, Jhelum, as a true patriot as he had returned to the country after he had been sent abroad on the demand of the PIA aircraft hijackers in March, 1980. Nevertheless, he had been sentenced for 25 years and was facing another trial under Section 302, PPC. He demanded his early release.

CSO: 4600/628

PAKISTAN

COMMENTARY ALLEGES OFFICIAL DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PUNJABI LANGUAGE

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 29 Aug 85 p 19

[Article by Husain Naqi]

[Text]

EVEN THOUGH the pleaders for Punjabi language's rights are not as bad as the self-appointed counsel in the 'Punjab's Case', this sweet and rich and powerful language of the largest single linguistic community in Pakistan continues to suffer. Its suffering is caused not by the other linguistic groups but by the same powerful elite which is the root cause of all our troubles and belongs predominantly to the same linguistic group.

Shamefully meagre

Last Friday, Punjabi Adabi Board, which receives the shamefully meagre grant of Rs. 50,000 per year and which, as per Federal Education Minister's promise will now be doubled only, organised a seminar on promotion of regional languages in connection with Independence Day celebrations. The seminar was addressed among others by the learned historian of the Punjabi language, Maulana Ainul Haq Fareedkoti. Mian Mohammad Yaseen Wattoo, the Federal Minister for Education, and Raj Mansab Ali, the Federal Minister of State for Manpower and Labour, also graced the occasion in the formal capacities of Chief Guest and Chairman. It must have required a lot of courage on the part of Mr. Wattoo to claim that the Government was "determined" to promote regional

languages and to promise promotion of the Punjabi language. While announcing a rise in the Board's grant to Rs. one lakh per annum, the Federal Education Minister might have thought that this was proof of a pledge redeemed. But one can imagine what a Board can do for the promotion of the language of some five crore people with an amount that comes to Re 0.0005 (Five thousandth of a single rupee per head). About that, another now-in-Government supporter of the Punjabi language, Rai Mansab Ali, is reported to have boasted : *hukumat Punjabi zaba'n ke liya bahut kuchh kar rahi hai* (the Government is doing a lot for the Punjabi language). One feels like asking Rai Mansab to consult a dictionary to see what "*Bahut Kuch*" (a lot) means.

A lot, indeed

It will, however, not be out of place to concede that a lot is being done for promoting the vested interests but surely not for the promotion of Punjabi language.

As Mr. Wattoo holds the Education portfolio, and the Federal Government has a lot to do with the policies concerning education, let's try him too. Let me, whose mother tongue is not Punjabi, ask him to plead, press and campaign for the enforcement of the mother

tongues as the medium of instruction, to start with, at the primary and adult education level. Rai Mansab Ali, one-time campaigner for Punjabi's rights, may also join him. Paying lip service has never promoted anything including the Punjabi language, which the Punjab's vested interests wants to ignore by design. Under all neo-colonial dispensations people's languages are often ignored, despised and insulted. You can identify whether the set-up is free and independent or neo-colonial through the status the language of its people enjoy. For, if production of a few books, important books like classics, dictionaries, grammar and composition were to be the criteria, the British officials and academics, during the colonial rule did no less, perhaps even more, for, the indigenous languages. That was patronage specifically designed for pacification of the local populace.

BY NEXT WEEK, the results of the Intermediate or Higher Secondary Examination (Lahore Board) will be out, and despite expectations of a substantial failure percentage, there would be the usual admissions problem. already for those passing the High School examination quite a few seats are available for those falling in "good students" category while merit list announced prevent even those obtaining over 70 per cent marks from getting into the better colleges. Under the category "better" come colleges that admit students with higher percentages of marks and whose results, subsequently, show better pass percentages.

The institutions where boys and girls could enter for graduation being few, the onrush of candidates after F.Sc, F.A and I. Com., etc., results, is bound to be much more. Similar would be the case with professional

institutions, despite the non-availability of job opportunities for engineers, doctors, etc. Parents and wards both will now be busy finding 'sifarish' and other admission requisites once again, after the exercise for getting higher marks percentages has been over. During the next few weeks there would be some fuss about all this, with the Press participating in it, to its financial benefit - a few more ads paid for through the taxpayer's money. Then the matter will all be forgotten with leftovers loitering around, trying for a Gulf visa or looking for some 'job'. This exercise is repeated year after year even though it is crucially related to the future of the nation (same old cliche). But there is a statement from the Federal Education Minister about that also. During his latest visit to the city, Mian Yasin Wattoo declared, for the benefit of all and sundry : *Pakistan ke mustaqbil ke liye pareshan honay ki zaroorat nahin* (there is no need to worry about Pakistan's future!) Yes, He's 'right' and 'relevant'. Pakistan's future is safe and well looked after while some hundred thousand of the youth are reported to have taken to 'heroin' and the number of 'charas' addicts has become irrelevant.

Let me add that Mian Wattoo's don't-worry-about-future prescription was in the context of another ailment. He had talked about the "continuous steps" being taken for ending Martial Law, completion of discussion on committee reports about "naya siyasi dhancha" (the new political structure) and the ongoing preparation of a draft law for the restoration of political parties. It was in that context that Mr. Wattoo had asked the people not to worry about Pakistan's future.

But are education and political 'dhanchas' not related? They are.

PAKISTAN

COMMENTARY DISCUSSES PALEEJO'S IMPRISONMENT

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 8 Aug 85 p 18

[Article by Ayaz Amir]

[Text] Of all the leading figures of the opposition, Rasul Bux Paleejo alone remains in detention, in hospital for the moment it is true, but under lock and key nonetheless. Other dissident figures have been released including Mairaj Mohammad Khan who is a flaming radical in official eyes. Still others have been encouraged or persuaded to take their baleful influence out of the country. Paleejo alone remains, an ailing figure on the verge of physical decline, his doctors in despair because their diagnoses and prescriptions have alike proved fruitless.

At one time they said his condition was parathoroidism. Now it is supposed to be something different. But whatever the name of the illness, the pain it inflicts is still the same. Even in this sultry season of heat and rain Paleejo feels cold. He covers himself with double blankets at night but the internal cold in his bones does not leave him.

Paleejo's friends in the Sind Awami Tehrik, the party he heads, are sick with worry not so much on account of his imprisonment (which should not be a matter for crying) but by his illness which, if not treated at this stage, is likely to damage his health permanently. If that were to happen, the party would suffer a grievous blow.

Futile Visit

A few of Paleejo's friends came recently to Islamabad in a bid to lobby for his release. They wanted to meet members of the Prime Minister's staff, especially his Sindhi Secretary, but they did not succeed either because the Secretary was not in town or because he did not have the time to spare. They met Mrs Abida Husain, the MNA from Jhang instead, but whether that fifteen-minute meeting did any good to them I cannot tell.

I know of a person who, on a wild impulse, telephoned the Pir of Pagara during the last Senate session, wanting the Pir, whose influence he had heard about, to do something for his son who is serving two separate

sentences of ten and fourteen years hard labour for terror, sabotage and conspiracy against the Government established by law. The Pir's answer was that Gen Zia could not be turned to in such matters. When the poor fellow persisted, the holy man hung up on him.

But to return to Paleejo who has been in detention for the last six years, something of a record even by the competitive standards of this Martial Law administration. He was picked up in October 1979, after he had addressed a peasant rally in Badin. Produced before a military court, he was sentenced to a year in jail and a fine of thirty thousand which his party workers ultimately paid to save his house in Hyderabad from being auctioned.

The jail term ended but not Paleejo's troubles. He was promptly served with a detention order for 90 days, renewed ever since at regular three-month intervals. Lately, this practice has been modified. The required paperwork is no doubt completed in the relevant department but Paleejo is not bothered with the formal detention notices, a piece of consideration for which I am sure he is duly grateful.

Not a day goes by without an appeal in the papers urging the Government to release Paleejo and permit him to go abroad for medical treatment. Since it is no longer possible to pretend that the problem does not exist, Paleejo's case has even been raised in Parliament by the one or two maverick MNAs who constitute the opposition in the intrepid parliament.

What Has He Done?

Why is the Martial Law administration afraid of Paleejo? What exactly had he done? Perhaps the most serious charge against him is that he is one of the few political leaders in Pakistan who can claim to have done some serious reading and writing. And for that matter, some serious thinking. That this is bad enough goes without saying. But what makes Paleejo's case worse, if not irredeemable, is the fear that the party he leads is also imbued with his dangerous ideas.

The Sind Awami Tehrik's role in the 1983 protest movement took the Martial Law authorities by surprise. Its cadres were in the forefront of the struggle, mobilising the people and radicalising their political perceptions. The authorities having been bitten once seem set on forestalling a similar explosion again. That is why Paleejo must remain in detention (and the Bhuttos must remain abroad).

But ultimately such a preventive exercise is self-defeating since it only adds fuel to the fires it is supposed to suppress. The SAT has its roots in the rural areas of Sind, but it is not a parochial or a secessionist party. Its outlook is national as it believes that the struggle for democracy and social justice can be successful only if it is predicated on the unity of the four provinces of Pakistan. This political line distinguishes the SAT from Sind's more radical politics. Strangely enough, it also makes

the SAT unacceptable to the Government which had much rather deal with outright secessionst forces if only they hold no animus against Martial Law. Is it any wonder that while G.M. Syed and Hamida Khuhro are rewarded with official smiles and favours, Paleejo and Fazil Rahu are made to eat the bread of imprisonment?

Punjab Can't Afford

But the Punjab (or at least its dominant elites) which has done enough to alienate smaller provinces cannot afford any longer to have more names included in the list of the dead from Sind. If anything happens to Paleejo, it will not augur well for the unity of Pakistan. It is high time, therefore, that the case for his release (and Fazil Rahu's, too) was taken up with greater vigour. The U.S. Congress has a special obligation in this respect because it can make its voice heard in the ivory towers of Islamabad. Let some Congressman take up the cudgels on their behalf and his name will outlive, well, maybe not the ruins of Moenjodaro but at least the present period of our discontent.

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PAKISTAN

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SAID TO FACE PROCEDURAL PROBLEMS

Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 30 Aug 85 p 4

[Article by M. Afzal Khan]

[Text]

PAKISTAN'S new parliament last week concluded its third session since it was elected early this year.

Having been elected on a non-party basis, both houses of parliament—the Senate and the National Assembly—continue to face a host of procedural and other problems peculiar to a partyless house, which consume a lot of time.

Though an official group was formed in the May-June session of the National Assembly and an independent group is slowly emerging to take up the role of parliamentary opposition, most members tend to be individualistic in their approach. On every issue that comes before the house, large numbers want to speak and the groups have generally been unable to impose strict discipline in this regard.

For an overwhelming majority of members, it is their first experience of a parliament. Few know parliamentary procedures and rules. There is thus an unmanageable number of privilege and adjournment motions on almost every subject under the sun. Members rise on points of order at will, just to make a speech rather than to underline any violation of rules.

While tackling these problems, the Speaker of the National Assembly, Syed Fakhar Imam, and Senate Chairman Ghulam Ishaq Khan differ in style and attitude. The latter, being a seasoned bureaucratic and

very close to the regime, has been very strict on rules and invited criticism from some members that he has been too tough. He does a lot of work in the chamber on motions and questions, disposing of most of them on technical grounds.

Mr Fakhar Imam, on the other hand, has adopted a very liberal attitude. He generally gives a free hand to members to air their views before ruling out any motion or point of order. Quite often, this approach has irked the treasury benches, but most members like the freedom given to them.

During the last session, Mr Fakhar Imam suggested that a system of call-attention notices be introduced as an alternative to adjournment motions which are usually censure motions on the government. Only very important issues should be raised through adjournment motions, the speaker pointed out.

Both the government and the activists in the independent group are facing problems marshalling their ranks. Prime Minister Junjo's bid to form a parliamentary party—which had initially received a tremendous response with almost a two-thirds majority signing membership forms—looks like running into some snags. Several members have alleged coercion and official pressure, including the use of martial law administrators and governors to enlist support. While the government has denied these charges, some mem-

bers have initiated a move to get back their signed forms.

The independent group, with a low-profile opposition role, has yet to take definite shape. It claims the support of 40 to 50 members in a house of 237. Some of them have remained associated with the military regime of General Zia in the past. They certainly have a soft corner for the regime and on occasions succumb to its persuasion.

This was evident on the question of lifting of martial law. The independent group launched a signature campaign in support of a draft resolution demanding an immediate end to martial law. The group planned to force a division in the assembly on the issue which would have embarrassed the government as very few even on the treasury benches would have dared to vote for a continuation of martial law.

President Zia then had separate meetings with Mr Javed Hashmi, secretary-general of the group, and another activist, Mr Elahi Bukhsh Soomro. Both have served as ministers in the Zia government. Though both deny having compromised the group's position on the issue, in effect the move was shelved for some days until Prime Minister Junejo announced on August 14 that martial law would be rolled back by the end of the current year. The government thus wrested the initiative which caused considerable confusion within the independent group. This was further accentuated when an independent member moved a resolution praising Mr Junejo's

declaration. There was criticism that some leading members of the group have bowed before government pressure. It was decided that the group should have a new secretary-general for every session. Dr Shafiq from Faisalabad has now replaced Mr Hashmi.

★ ★ ★ ★
WHO IS a political detenu? In recent years, the government and the politicians have differed on the definition. Thus, when Interior Minister Aslam Khattak last week told the National Assembly that there were only six political prisoners in the entire country, politicians and lawyers vehemently contested his statement.

MRD leader Malik Qasim and some leading lawyers who have formed a Political Prisoners Release and Relief Committee alleged that the minister had provided wrong information to the Assembly, causing a breach of privilege. According to them, there were more than 350 political detenus in various prisons in the country. The figure did not include several PPP and MRD activists who were arrested in Sind on the eve of Miss Benazir Bhutto's return to Pakistan or in Rawalpindi after the citizens' protest against the massacre of 11 persons in mysterious circumstances.

For the government, a political prisoner is one who has been detained under preventive laws. Political leaders and workers arrested on charges of violating martial law regulations or the ban on meetings and processions are considered ordinary criminals.

CSO: 4600/622

PAKISTAN

COMMITTEE REPORTS ON POLITICAL SETUP SAID TO CREATE UNCERTAINTY

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 15 Aug 85 p 7

[Text] Although every few weeks Muhammad Khan Junejo has proclaimed in his poker-faced monotone that Martial Law will be lifted within a few months (because Martial Law and democracy cannot coexist for long), his Government's recent move--or manoeuvre--seems certain to take us well into next year without change in the current epicene stage of political evolution.

Committees and commissions are traditionally meant to provide their creators with time to decide at leisure how a problem is to be overcome or avoided. The Assembly's Special Committee on the Future Political Structure of the country is unlikely to disappoint those who seek to stretch the present system of governance for as long as possible. They have got an administration that has the benefit of electoral sanction and it is also buttressed by Martial Law. What more could they ask for? Which other formula could give them both safety and honour? The Committee was set up to avoid a debate and possibly a decision on three Privilege Motions based on the understanding that continuation of Martial Law after the installation of Parliament was a breach of the Privilege of the House and its Members. Selected hastily but with care, the Committee was, instead, asked to propose a structure that would fill the vacuum that may be created by the lifting of Martial law.

The Tasks

The 29-member body decided that its terms of reference allowed it to limit its ~~ta~~urs to the question of revival of political parties in the country. For this purpose it seems to have taken Ayub Khan's Political Parties Act as its model, and its recommendations apparently incorporate the 1962 Act's first two paragraphs word for word. However, the Act is supplemented by the later Registration of Political Parties Order. The method of registration and deregistration has been made so rigid that should Government so desire it can virtually debar any party that it does not like from being registered. And, not only will such a party be excluded from taking part in elections, but judging by the tone of the recommendations it will not even be able to function as a political party outside the electoral arena. Seemingly, for politicians of this ilk politics can only mean electoral bun-fights and nothing more.

The Time Factor

Further, the procedure for registration is such that it will take almost a year for parties to complete all the formalities before the Election Commission will be in a position to accept their manifestos, approve their party elections, examine their accounts and give them a certificate of registration. As for deregistration, whereas previously action against a party necessitated a prior reference to the Supreme Court by Government, now the Government can act first, suspend the party, freeze its assets and then refer the matter to the Supreme Court. This will make it extremely difficult for the impugned party to defend itself against the charge, for example, of operating in a manner prejudicial to the Islamic ideology or the sovereignty, integrity, security of Pakistan, or morality or maintenance of public order. What is more, office-bearers of political parties that have been suspended or decertified cannot take part in any political activity within five years of the party's dissolution, and they can be punished with imprisonment or fine or both if found doing so. Thus, apart from restrictions on political parties and associations, the right of individuals to act in accordance with their political consciences has been subjected to a vague all-embracing law, which could easily be misused to keep politics a preserve for the Government party that is in the process of formation.

Courage To Act

It could be said that the three MNAs who had moved the Privilege Motions thus seeking exemption from compulsory prayers have received additional injunctions to fast regularly. When considering the recommendations of the Committee, the Prime Minister had asked Members of Parliament to act with courage. This, indeed, is a testing time for all persons elected on the assumption that, irrespective of the nature of the elections, they are enjoined to respect and be guided by public opinion, about which there is little doubt on such questions as Martial Law and democracy.

The future still remains uncertain, because the final shape of the FPC Special Committee's recommendations will only be known after the National Assembly vote and their symbiosis with the findings of the sister Senate Committee. This will determine what the future holds for Pakistan in terms of the polity being devised by the present diarchy.

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PAKISTAN

FORMER SUPREME COURT JUSTICE INTERVIEWED

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 15 Aug 85 pp 15-19

[Text]

Mr. Justice (Reid) Dorab Patel was a widely respected member of the Bar before he was raised to the Sind High Court Bench. After serving the Sind High Court for many years with distinction, he was elevated to the Supreme Court Bench. He was the Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court when the Provisional Constitution Order was promulgated and he chose to step down. He very kindly agreed to give answers to Viewpoint's questions on some of the fundamental issues confronting the country.

Q. Do you think that the country should have a federal constitution or a unitary one?

A. In my opinion, we should have a federal constitution because a unitary constitution works only in small homogeneous countries, which have the good fortune of having a very honest and efficient administration. Where any of these conditions are absent, the pressures towards centralisation lead to an explosion, as is illustrated by the recent secessionist movement in Canada. It was, I think, with reference to Canada, that Dicey said that a federation was only a stage on the road to a unitary government, and it was this tendency to centralisation which led almost to the break-up of Canada. The problem was solved only by the vision of Pierre Trudeau, who had the wisdom to see that genuine provincial autonomy, coupled with a guarantee for human rights, was the only

solution to the problems of the country. And I would emphasise here that the Quebec problem arose despite Canada being a Christian country, with a common European culture.

Q. What is, in your opinion, the cause of recent moves for a confederation? Do you think, these moves have anything to do with Martial Law?

A. As Martial Law necessarily involves the centralisation of powers, by the nature of things it is inconsistent with provincial autonomy. Secondly, the RCO contains some provisions which are the hallmark of a unitary State. In my opinion, these provisions were entirely unnecessary for maintaining the country's unity, but even if they have triggered off this talk of a confederation, the problem is much older.

Q. What is the problem?

A. In federations, sovereignty is divided between the federal government and the federating units. Whether the federating units are called provinces or states is immaterial. Necessarily, therefore, a federation has a written constitution by which some fields of legislation are allocated to the federal government, whilst other fields are allocated to the provincial governments or the states. Such divisions of federal and provincial subjects cannot possibly be exhaustive, and in the federation which has stood the test of time, the USA, the residuary powers are vested in the states (which correspond to our provinces). The Australian Federation followed this American pattern and it has had comparatively smooth sailings. On the other hand, the residuary powers in the Canadian Federation were vested in the federal government. This bias towards centralisation inevitably encouraged a tendency to ride rough-shod over the rights and susceptibilities of the provinces, and the Canadian Federation would have broken up but for Trudeau's wisdom in tilting the balance in favour of the provinces because only this course could give the provinces a feeling of participation in the affairs of the country.

Unitary State

But turning to our problem, although British India was divided into provinces for nearly 100 years, it was a unitary State until 1919. This would not have been possible but for the honesty and the ability of the bureaucracy. Be that as it may, by 1919, with the diverse populations and races of India, the bell had been tolling for a unitary State, and all the political parties were demanding self-government through a federation which guaranteed human rights. Two generations is a long time, and it seems to me that the twin ideas of a federation and human rights have taken deep roots in the country and it is too late now to put the clock back.

Reverting, however, to the constitutional developments, by the Montford Reform of 1919, a very limited measure of self-government was given to the provinces. This was on the basis of the Montagu statement in 1917 that the policy of the British Government was the "gradual development of self-governing institutions with a view to the progressive realisation of responsible government in India as an integral part of the British empire". The steps towards a federation and towards self-government were so feeble that I have referred to them only because they marked a change in the British Government's policy of maintaining a unitary State.

However, a new stage of our development began with the Government of India Act, 1935. Although, this Act contained legal drawbacks to which I will presently refer, it was administered with wisdom and moderation by the British Governors and by the Viceroys. Therefore, in fact, it gave the country self-government at the provincial level. This result was all the more creditable because of the difficulties which had to be overcome. There was, first of all, the financial stringency caused by the depression in world trade which had hit agricultural countries the hardest and India was an agrarian country. Secondly, the division of subjects between the federation and the provinces was based on the Canadian model, but with a little sophistication. There was a lengthy federal legislative list. There was, of course, a provincial legislative list and also a concurrent list. The provinces were free to legislate on any item in the concurrent list but so was the federal legislature. And if the federal legislature enacted legislation on any item in this list, it automatically superseded the provincial law. Now in view of the British Government's policy of "the progressive realisation of self-government," the central government was unaffected by the Government of India Act. It remained exclusively in the hands of the Viceroy and the members of his Council were merely his advisers, therefore, this bias in the legislative lists in favour of the

centre meant, in fact, the retention of power in the hands of the Viceroy. But this bias in favour of the centre in the legislative lists was not meant to be permanent, because the retention of power by the British Government at the centre was not intended to be permanent.

Pattern of 1935 Act

Unfortunately, however, our successive constitutions have broadly followed the pattern of the division of powers in the Government of India Act, 1935, with minor changes. Thus, for example, the 1962 Constitution had only a federal legislative list and all other subjects fell in the provincial field. But Article 131 of the Constitution gave the Central Government very wide powers to legislate in the provincial field. And so what was given with one hand was taken away with the other in the name of security, economy, stability, etc. In the 1973 Constitution, on the other hand, there was a Federal Legislative List and a Concurrent List and the Provinces were entitled to legislate on any item not included in this list, whilst as to the Concurrent List, the position was the same as in the Government of India Act, 1935. This tinkering with the items in the legislative lists and the changes in nomenclature in our three constitutions were not material, because the pattern followed throughout was of the Government of India Act, 1935, with its tilt against the Provinces.

Q. Suggestions have been made that the number of subjects on the Federal List should be reduced to four. Do you think that such a proposal would be a solution of the federal problem?

A. A federation cannot become a reality unless there is a genuine sharing of power between the federation and the federating units and, as I said, the balance has been tilted against the provinces in all our constitutions. Therefore, a curtailment of the powers of the federal legislature would be a step in the

right direction because it would increase the powers of the provincial legislatures. However, merely increasing the powers of the provincial legislatures will not help, unless those powers are vigorously exercised for the development of the provinces, and that requires financial resources. There cannot be provincial autonomy without financial autonomy.

The major sources of the Government's income since the first World War have been tax on incomes other than agricultural income, and customs duty. Taxes on agricultural income have been a provincial subject since the Government of India Act, 1935. But agricultural income has never been taxed in Pakistan. In the early years of independence, there was perhaps some justification for not taxing this income, but agriculture has become so prosperous in the last decade or two that a reasonable tax on income accruing from it would bring in substantial revenue to the provinces. *Therefore, the solution of the federal problem is partly in the hands of the provincial legislature. I say this because if this tax on agricultural income is imposed, they can proceed with schemes for the development of the provinces even without federal aid.*

Q. In your opinion, have there been other causes of friction between the Centre and the Provinces?

A. I have no doubt in my mind that the major cause of friction between the Centre and the Provinces has been the manner in which the

Federal Government has used its emergency provisions under the Government of India Act, 1935, and under our own constitutions. According to Section 93 of the Government of India Act, 1935, "if the Governor-General on receipt of a report from the governor of province is satisfied that a circumstance has arisen in which the Government of the province cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Government of

India Act, 1935, the Governor-General may" empower the governor to take over the government of the province or direct the governor to take it over on his behalf and to carry out all his orders and similarly, the federal legislature becomes competent to exercise the powers of the provincial legislature. At first sight, this seems a shocking provision but there was a reason for inserting it. For at least a decade before the Government of India Act, 1935, was promulgated, the Indian National Congress had said that it would enter the provincial legislatures only in order to wreck the scheme of the Government of India Act. Therefore, the provision had been enacted to meet the threat arising out of the agitation for self-government.

Now although the Governor-General was thus empowered to take over the provincial government, he exercised his powers very cautiously, because he wanted to follow the spirit of the Government of India Act, 1935, and not its letter. But after 1947, we have been afflicted by what I can only describe as legal fundamentalism, and the powers, conferred by this section, (which are now to be found in Article 234 of the 1973 Constitution) have generally been invoked for dismissing provincial governments if those governments did not belong to the party in power in the federal legislature. Nothing has caused more ill-feeling between the smaller provinces and the Centre than arbitrary dismissals of the provincial governments by the Central Government. And this bitterness has been created solely by the politicians.

Q. Why was the dismissal of the provincial governments not challenged in the courts?

A. Except for a brief period in 1954, our superior courts did not have the jurisdiction to entertain writ petitions against the Federal Government until the 1956 Constitution. That Constitution was abrogated by Martial Law in 1958. We have since, except for another short period of

about two years, mostly in 1964-65, alternated between Martial Law and state of Emergency. Further, even according to the 1973 Constitution, the validity of a proclamation under Article 234 could not be called in question in any court. As a court would have no difficulty in deciding a dispute between the Federal Government and a provincial government on the question whether the constitutional machinery had broken down so as to justify a proclamation under Article 234, this provision ousting the jurisdiction of the courts was a most retrograde step and it is unfortunate that it has not been repealed by the RCO.

Q. What is the way out of this dilemma?

A. The problem has been created by political intolerance, and the only lasting solution is to build up habits of tolerance not merely in politics but also in all walks of life. We must learn to respect our neighbours' right to take a different view from our own.

Janata example

In the short run, we would do well to follow the Janata Government's example in India. Article 234 of Pakistan's 1973 Constitution corresponds to Article 356 of the Indian Constitution, and the Emergency powers under Article 356 were abused in India after Nehru's death as much as they have been abused in Pakistan. Therefore, when the Janata Government came into power, it could have retained these emergency powers in order to pay Mrs. Gandhi's party in its own coin. Instead, it promulgated the 44th Amendment to the Constitution in order to curtail the Emergency powers of the Federal Government, and the result of one of the amendments thus made is that the superior courts of India can entertain writ petitions in order to decide the validity of proclamations issued under Article 356. And these amendments by the Janata Government have not been repealed, although, thereafter, India has been

through an armed rebellion, a mutiny and riots in which thousands of people have died. Obviously, the amendments did not endanger India's unity but strengthened it.

The other emergency provisions are contained in Article 232 of the 1973 Constitution. It reads :

"232. (1) If the President is satisfied that a grave emergency exists in which the security of Pakistan, or any part therefore, is threatened by war or external aggression, or by internal disturbance beyond the power of a Provincial Government to control, he may issue a Proclamation of Emergency...."

On the Proclamation of Emergency coming into force, the Central Government can legislate in the provincial field and give directions to the provincial government. The wide powers under the Article entitle the Federal Government, if necessary, to run the provincial government. Further, if a proclamation of Emergency is in force, Article 233 empowers the President to issue a Proclamation suspending fundamental rights. And that is why we have been without fundamental rights since the emergency proclaimed by General Yahya in December, 1971.

As in Article 234, the only safeguard prescribed in the Constitution against the abuse of these vast and despotic powers by the Government is that the proclamation of the President has to be placed before the federal legislature and cannot remain in force unless it is renewed. These provisions are identical to Article 352 of the Indian Constitution and both in India and in Pakistan, the provision for the renewal of the proclamation by the federal legislature has proved to be utterly illusory as a protection against despotism because the legislatures renewed the proclamations of emergency year after year without any justification at the behest of the ruling party.

When necessary

However, although the abuse of such emergency powers is a certainty in our conditions, these powers are

nonetheless necessary for the great crises of war and external aggression, and I also think that proclamations of emergency should not be justiciable during the clash of arms. But I see no reason why such proclamations should not be justiciable, say one or two years after the cessation of hostilities.

On the other hand, the powers to declare an emergency on the ground of internal disturbances is, in my opinion, totally unnecessary and is a relic of imperialism. And in India, an emergency can now be declared only on the ground of war, external aggression or an armed rebellion. In my opinion, the Indian Union has emerged stronger by abolishing the federal government's right to declare an emergency on the ground of internal disturbances. This is an arbitrary power which invites abuse and is also unnecessary, because our laws confer ample powers on the federal government to crush internal disturbances, and I am surprised that this provision about declaring an emergency on the flimsy ground of internal disturbances has not been repealed by the RCO.

However, as we have seen three constitutions being swept away, I have no illusions about the sanctity of constitutional safeguards, whether for the protection of provincial autonomy or for the protection of human rights, and the only sure basis for provincial autonomy is the growth of political tolerance and of democratic institutions, because in our conditions, provincial autonomy is not possible without democratic institutions. But what is democracy? I have raised this question because one of our political leaders has, according to Press reports, stated that democracy has no ideology. So, rather than impose my views, I would quote one of the founding fathers of the USA. In his inaugural speech as President, Jefferson said on March 4, 1801 :

"All, too, will bear in mind this sacred principle that though the will of the majority is in all cases to prevail, that will, to be rightful must be reasonable; that the minority possess their equal rights, which equal laws must protect, and to violate which

would be oppression. Let us, then, fellow citizens, unite with one heart and one mind. Let us restore to social intercourse that harmony and affection without which liberty and even life itself are but dreary things. And let us reflect that having banished from our land that religious intolerance under which mankind so long bled and suffered, we have yet gained little if we countenance a political intolerance as despotic, as wicked, and capable of as bitter and bloody persecutions. . . We are all republicans—we are federalists. If there be any among us who would wish to dissolve this Union or to change its republican government, let them stand undisturbed as monuments of the safety with which errors of opinion may be tolerated where reason is left free to combat it."

I have not come across a better statement of the ideology of democracy.

LAW OF EVIDENCE

Q. What are the changes in our law of evidence?

A. The last proviso of Section 3 and Section 17 of the Qanun-i-Shahadat Ordinance 1984, have made changes in the law, the extent of which is difficult to assess. But, except for these provisions, by and large, the 1984 Ordinance has not made major changes in the Evidence Act, 1872.

Section 3 of the Ordinance reads : Who may testify : — All persons shall be competent to testify unless the court considers that they are prevented from understanding the questions put to them, or from giving rational answers to those questions, by tender years, extreme old age, disease, whether of body or mind, or any other cause of the same kind :

Provided that a person shall not be competent to testify if he has been convicted by a Court for perjury or giving false evidence :

Provided further that the provision for the first proviso

shall not apply to a person about whom the court is satisfied that he has repented thereafter and mended his ways :

Provided further that the Court shall determine the competence of a witness in accordance with the qualifications prescribed by the injunctions of Islam as laid down in the Holy Quran and Sunnah for a witness, and, where such witness is not forthcoming, the court may take the evidence of a witness who may be available.

Explanation. — A lunatic is incompetent to testify, unless he is not prevented by his lunacy from understanding the questions put to him and giving rational answers to them.

This section is a reproduction of Section 118 of the old Evidence Act, to which the proviso have been added by the Ordinance. But as no court would rely on the evidence of a witness convicted for perjury unless it is satisfied that the witness had turned a new leaf, the first two provisos clarify, but do not alter, the provisions of the Evidence Act. Similarly, the beneficial provision in the last proviso that the court 'may' examine a witness *suo moto* does not make a material departure from the old law, because an adverse inference had to be drawn both under sections 106 and 114 of the Evidence Act, if a litigant did not examine a witness who was a necessary witness, and my own experience on the original side in the Sind High Court was that if I said, even in passing, that the evidence of a certain person was necessary, the advocate of the party concerned unsafely complied with my observation and produced the witness.

Material change

However, a material change in the law has been made by the direction to observe the lofty standard of evidence as "laid down in the Holy Quran and Sunnah for a witness". The consequences of this proviso are difficult to assess in a society in

which perjury is rife. All of us, who have had something to do with the administration of justice, know that if one criminal murders a person or injures him, his relations generally try to implicate as many male members of the criminal's family as possible in order to satisfy their lust for vengeance. Now persons who falsely implicate innocent persons in a crime are dishonest, but if such evidence is always rejected, it might become impossible for the prosecution to obtain a conviction. Because of this difficulty, created by the conditions of society, the courts had, in the fifties, formulated a rule described by the late Mr. Justice Munir as the rule for sifting the grain from the chaff. In plain English, the rule means that if interested eye-witnesses implicate a larger number of persons in a crime than seems reasonable, the evidence of such witnesses should not be accepted against any accused unless it is corroborated by independent evidence. But methods of investigation in the country being what they are, this corroboration of ocular evidence is seldom furnished by circumstantial evidence. In the vast majority of cases for the prosecution of crimes of violence eye-witnesses are interested witnesses and for corroborating their evidence, the prosecution relies on the recovery of crime weapons and blood-stained clothes recovered at the instance of the police. Now, as I am writing this, I read in your issue of July 25 that the Governor of the Punjab has publicly criticised the police, and amongst his allegations is that the policemen torture witnesses and then gang up to cover their crime by perjury.

Police recoveries

We in the courts were conscious of the danger of relying on recoveries made by the police, and confirming a sentence of death always involved an agonising appraisal of evidence but we discharge our duties by following rules laid down by the judges who had served before us. In view of section 3 of the Ordinance, it is now clear that this rule of sifting grain from chaff has ceased to be

applicable, because of the very high standard of evidence required by the Section. I wonder whether it would be possible, in the majority of cases, to obtain a conviction because of the requirement of absolute integrity on the part of eye-witnesses. All I can say is that the Ordinance opens a new chapter in our jurisprudence, and it will be an interesting time for the courts. I am afraid that this change in the law may also lead to a flood of litigation. But if witnesses learn that perjury necessarily leads to the acquittal of the accused, they might have second thoughts about implicating innocent persons in the crime. This realisation, however, will take time.

Section 17 reads as follows :

"Competence and number of witnesses — (1) The competence of a person to testify and the number of witnesses required in any case shall be determined in accordance with the injunctions of Islam as laid down in the Holy Quran and Sunnah. (2) Unless otherwise provided in any law relating to enforcement of Hudood or any other special law. —

(a) In matters pertaining to financial or future obligations, if reduced to writing, the instrument shall be attested by two men or one man and two women, so that one may remind the other, if necessary, and evidence shall be led accordingly: and

(b) in all other matters, the court may accept, or act on, the testimony of one man or one woman or such other evidence as the circumstances of the case may warrant."

As the first sub-section is substantially a re-production of the third proviso of section 3 which I have discussed, I turn to the second sub-section.

The second sub-section imposes a disability on the right of a woman who gives evidence in a court. As I cannot read Arabic, I would reproduce the relevant passage in the Holy Quran as translated into English by Prof. Ahmed Ali:

.... believers, when you negotiate a debt for a fixed term,

draw up an agreement in writing... and have two of your men to act as witnesses; but if two men are not available, then a man and two women you approve, so that in case one of them is confused the other may remind her."

I am not a scholar of Islam, but I have had something to do with the interpretation of laws and in this passage, the reason for imposing a disability on a woman's evidence has been given "... so that in case one of them is confused, the other may remind her." As a reason has been given for the disqualification of woman's evidence, can it be said that as society advances and women get the same education facilities as men, the disqualification would come to an end because the reason for that disqualification has disappeared? This is a possible interpretation which it is for the scholars of Islam to decide.

However, the passage cited makes it very clear that the disqualification about a woman's evidence is limited to an agreement in writing about a debt. Therefore, the sub-section is not an application of this passage in the Holy Quran, but an extension of the disqualification on a woman's evidence to all financial and future obligations.

Nonetheless it is very clear that the Holy Quran does not disqualify a woman from giving evidence in criminal cases. Similarly, I have not found any provision disqualifying a non-Muslim from giving evidence in criminal cases and I am advised that the Holy Quran does not contain any such disqualification. But the Hudood Ordinances of 1979 disqualify both Muslim women and non-Muslims. Thus, for proof of the offences "liable to Hadd", a conviction has to be based on the evidence of "Muslim adult male witnesses. . . . about whom the court is satisfied. . . . that they are truthful persons who abstain from major sins. . . .".

"Provided if an accused is a non-Muslim, the eye-witness may be non-Muslim." As Muslim women can be

convicted on the evidence of men and as non-Muslims can be convicted on the evidence of Muslims, but not vice-versa, these provisions are discriminatory. There is, however, an irony in the proviso about non-Muslims. As discriminatory provisions have to be construed strictly, it is clear that a non-Muslim woman can give evidence in the prosecution of a non-Muslim, and so she has a right of which her Muslim sister has been deprived. As this distinction between types of witnesses is not to be found in the Holy Quran, it is submitted that it is the implementation of a school of jurisprudence, and that after the Arab conquests.

Discriminatory

I regret the provision because once the law discriminates between types of citizens, there is no knowing where this discrimination will end. And there is another circumstance to which I must refer. The law of evidence, which we had inherited from the British, did not draw any distinction between witnesses on the ground of religion, yet there has not been any criticism from any ex-judge or any advocate or any Bar Association about the disqualification imposed on non-Muslims. This silence has depressed me because non-Muslim judges, too, have contributed to the jurisprudence of Pakistan.

Finest hour

In the finest hour of our judiciary, it was Mr. Justice Constantine who had presided over the High Court at Karachi which had allowed Maulvi Tamizuddin's writ petition against the Government, and if Government's appeal against those fine judgments had been dismissed, our history would have been different. And in the Federal Court, it was only Mr. Justice Cornelius who had dismissed the Government's appeal, but he is now unfit to give evidence under these Ordinances.

PAKISTAN

RETIRED GENERAL TALKS ABOUT SECURITY MEASURES

GF071548 Lahore JANG in Urdu 24 Aug 85 p 1

[Unidentified correspondent's report on "exclusive" interview with retired Major General Sarfaraz Khan by unidentified Lahore monthly in Lahore--date not given]

[Text] Retired Major General Sarfaraz Khan has stated that a direct Soviet attack on Pakistan is impossible because the United States would not tolerate it. He said: The Soviet Union follows a different strategy. Instead of open aggression, the Soviet Union creates a situation which results in unrest and riots in the country concerned.

Speaking to a correspondent of a Lahore monthly he stated that the Soviet Union will not attack Pakistan openly. He added: In connection with the Afghanistan problem, United States has shown more than the necessary sympathy.

He also expressed his conviction that if war was to break out between India and Pakistan in the future, it is certain that India will have to fall to its knees.

He further said: In view of the military pressure on Pakistan, we should not be negligent in the matter of building nuclear weapons. Referring to the threat of an attack by India on the Kahuta nuclear plant, General Sarfaraz Khan said: If India attacks the Kahuta plant it would fail completely in the attempts, because the topography safeguards the installations. Moreover aircraft of extraordinary capability are always ready for action there. General Sarfaraz Khan said: Afghanistan's violations of Pakistan's airspace were not deep enough to allow the Pakistan defense system to take the necessary action. He further said: If Pakistan could get I.R. Radar from the United States, Pakistan could strengthen its western defenses, but after the visit of Rajiv to the United States, our request for the sale of the radar equipment was rejected.

General Sarfaraz Khan said: Setting up martial law in a country affects the professional capability of its Armed Forces. To wipe out martial law permanently, he proposed that, in addition to the participation of Army heads of staff in the National Security Council, the Chief Justice of the Federal Shari'a Court should be made chairman of the Council. In addition, he

proposed that the chief justices of the four provinces, the federal ombudsman, the speakers of both houses of the parliament and selected political party members should also hold membership in the Council.

He further proposed that the National Security Council should not by itself issue any order for the security of the country, but should only submit its recommendations to the government and the prime minister for approval. At the same time it should send copies of the recommendations to both houses of the parliament. The recommendations should also be published in the press to include the public in confidence. General Sarfaraz Khan added that he would support establishing a separate body of retired Army generals to advise on decisions to impose martial law in the country.

General Sarfaraz Khan further said: We should not remain in doubt about India's intentions. India talks of peace and friendship, but it does not hesitate to resort to the stick. The very fact that it wishes to prolong the peace talks shows that its intentions are mixed with mischief. Therefore, the danger of an attack by India is always there. He said that China was the only country on whose friendship one could lay trust.

CSO: 4656/165

PAKISTAN

PAKISTAN PAPER ON OIL EXPLORATION PROGRAM

GF081216 Lahore MASHRIQ in Urdu 5 Sep 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] Haidarabad, 4 Sep--The Minister of State for Oil and Natural Resources, Dr Mohammad Asad Khan, has said that drilling work on the first test well for oil off the Karachi coast will begin in the first week of October. The minister was speaking at the inauguration of the drilling for oil at Machi Goth, 15 southwest of Haidarabad today. The minister of state said that the offshore drilling will take place 129 km south of the Karachi coast. The Canadian Government has provided a loan of Canadian \$20 million for this purpose; under an agreement, a Canadian company will start the drilling work. Equipment for the project will soon reach Pakistan. The Oil and Gas Development Organization will also help in this project. The minister of state said that negotiations are underway with several overseas companies for developing the oil and gas industry in Pakistan. In reply to a press question, the minister of state said that the (Khaskhaili), Tando Adam, and Laghari oil wells will be connected with Karachi refinery through pipelines which will be completed within the next 18 months.

Dr Asad said that in Sind Province some 19,000 barrels of oil are being extracted daily, which is 45 percent of its daily consumption. However, oil consumption is on the rise in Pakistan. Some 2 years ago the country's daily oil consumption was 120,000 barrels, but has now reached 160,000 BPD. Compared to this some 40,000 BPD are being produced from all the producing wells in the country, which accounts for 25 percent of the total oil consumed.

Answering a question on expenditure involved in oil drilling, the minister of state said that once an oil well begins producing, it pays for itself within 45 days; therefore, test oil drilling is not so expensive. The minister of state said that in addition to allowing foreign and private oil companies to drill for oil in the country, the Daud Petroleum Company has been also permitted to drill for oil and soon will start working in northern regions of the country.

In reply to another question, the minister of state said that existing oil wells will continue to produce oil for several decades. In the present fiscal year 21 more wells will be drilled.

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